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THE
CASTLE OF SANTA FE.

A NOVEL.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

BY
A CLERGYMAN'S DAUGHTER,

AUTHOR OF
JEALOUSY, OR THE DREADFUL MISTAKE:

Here will I hold. If there's a Pow'n above us,
(And that there is, all Nature cries aloud
'Thro' all her works), He must delight in virtue;
And that which Hz delights in, must be happy.

ADDISON.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
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LEADENHALL-STREET.

1805.

249. s. 64!



TO THE
HONOURABLE
MRS. ARIANA EGERTON
EMINENT FOR THOSE
MODEST VIRTUES
WHICH SWEETEN AND ENDEAR
PRIVATE LIFE,
AND NO LESS
DISTINGUISHED FOR THOSE ELEGANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
WHICH GRACE
A BRITISH COURT,
THIS
SECOND ATTEMPT
TO
ENTERTAIN, WITHOUT MISLEADING,
IS
MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY
THE AUTHOR.

This Dedication was designed for the Press, by the truly amiable and lamented Author of this Work, a short time before she—DIED!

THE CASTLE OF SANTA FE.

CHAP. I.

Nothing in exchange can grateful prove;
No second friendship can be found
To match my mourning widow'd love;
Eden is lost!—the rest's but common ground!

THE rain descended in torrents, and the wind howled in blustering tumult through the winding passages, while the clamorous surge was dashed with violence against the casements. Adeliza was suddenly awakened

VOL. I.

B

from

from those quiet slumbers which innocence, the child of Heaven, can enjoy, though tossed by tempests at sea, or rocked by convulsions of the earth. A loud ringing at the gate, the unseasonable sound of which broke in upon her rest, was, in her apprehension, far more alarming than the roaring tempest. The latter she had often witnessed undismayed; but now, one moment she trembled for the welfare of a beloved brother, and the next dreaded a separation from an indulgent father. The ringing was impatiently repeated; and Adeliza, hesitating no longer, threw on part of her dress, and quickly reached the head of the staircase: but here her sinking limbs refused their office, and she dropped, half fainting, on the floor. Once more the ringing was repeated with vehemence, and, mingling with

with

with the blast, resounded through the whole building. Ashamed of her weakness, Adeliza summoned all her firmness to her aid, and hastily descended to the hall, where she found the servants, whom fear had kept from going to bed, creeping close to one another, with features strongly marked by terror and dismay.

“Rampart,” said she, in a tone of surprise, somewhat mingled with contempt, “what, you, my old friend, afraid!—and a soldier too! Come, I will accompany you to the gate.”

The blood, as if confounded at its hurried and unbecoming retreat, instantly, and with double force, resumed its station in the face of the veteran, as he warmly declared he would immediately go alone, and enquire who it was that thus so unseasonably disturbed the family. Rampart

presently returned, accompanied by a stranger, whose drenched and fatigued appearance at once made way to the compassionate heart of Adeliza. Respectfully taking off his hat, he thus addressed her—

“ I fear, Madam, I have alarmed you. I am sorry if I have done so; yet I am apprehensive that will prove the least unpleasant part of my commission. Here,” continued he, drawing from his bosom a paper, and presenting it to her, “ is an express for Captain Pembroke.”

Adeliza turned sick at heart, while, with reluctant fingers, she took the letter.

As with irregular steps, she hurried up stairs, she met her father. He appeared extremely agitated.

“ Oh heavens !” he exclaimed——“ My boy—my dear, my inestimable boy——”

“ Is well,” replied Adeliza.

“ Oh

" Oh God ! " said he, with grateful fervour, " I thank thee ! " while tears of parental joy rolled down his flushed face. " But, " continued he, " my Adeliza, why are you up at this very unusual hour ? — Ah ! what paper is what you hold ? Is it for me ? Wherefore are you so pale, my child ? Believe me, I bid defiance to fear, knowing there is no bad news of my George, and trusting, as I now do, that the dear fellow is well."

Captain Pembroke read the letter with a countenance calm and unaltered ; then, turning to his daughter, and tenderly taking her hand—

" Weep not, " said he, " my child ; there is in this summons no cause of grief."

" Oh Sir ! " replied Adeliza, in plaintive accents, " you cannot think, indeed, it is so very trivial a thing to part with

(Oh Heavens, perhaps *for ever*!) so indulgent, so excellent a parent!—and for what?”

“HONOUR, my love, demands this sacrifice; neither ought I, nor will I repine: it would be useless, as well as unmanly. My noble child would not surely have added to her father's name, the contemptible appellation of *coward*! Honour, I say, Adeliza, is a sacred tie that aids and strengthens virtue:—should we not then, even where a heavy sacrifice is requisite, invariably follow, and strictly adhere to its steady and pure dictates?—Nor will I now shrink from what it demands, though it parts me from all I hold dear on earth. This letter, Adeliza, orders me to Africa: you know we expected such would be the case; and you I look forward to as the comforter, the supporter of your mother.”

“Dear

" Dear Sir, believe me, you shall not be disappointed in your hopes; I will endeavour to be all you wish: nor shall another repining word escape my lips, let my heart bleed inwardly as it will."

" There spoke my own heroic daughter, my firm-minded Adeliza! Would to Heaven your dear mother was acquainted with this, to her, distressing business! Much I dread the effect it may have on her susceptible heart; but, depending, as I do, on your vigilant and anxious endeavours to console her, half my apprehensions are vanished, and I will hope the best. It becomes me to be the unwelcome messenger of this news myself; and, in the meantime, do you, my Adeliza, see that my clothes are packed up; for, as soon as morning dawns, I must be off.— Good night! God bless you!"

Mrs. Pembroke received the intelligence of her husband's departure with every appearance of the most impassioned grief; nor could any arguments he could make use of, in any degree reconcile her to (as she termed it) her cruel and relentless fate. Captain Pembroke was extremely distressed; but there was little time either for reflection, or even consolation, for the day had already begun to break. Adeliza had, with an aching heart, made all the necessary preparations and arrangements for her father's departure, and now called Rampart, a faithful creature, grown grey in her father's service, to see if all the military parts of his dress were right, and at the same time, to give him many strict charges to take all the care in his power of his master. The old soldier entered the room with a dejected countenance.

“ I am

"I am almost ashamed," said he, bowing, "my dear young lady, to face you."

"Why so, Rampart?" said Adeliza, in an encouraging accent.

"If you were not kindness and goodness itself," answered he, "you would despise me, and never again speak to me, much less with such sweetness. On my soul, I do think you must hate me for a coward! Oh fie!—my womanish behaviour last night!—had it not been for that, I might have died without a stain on my character; but now I deserve to be branded as a poltroon!"

"Have no fears on that head, my worthy old friend," said Adeliza; "nor, I beg of you, distress yourself with the idea of being despised. Your courage, Rampart, has often been tried, and I have heard my father praise your gallant conduct: be but

now, as you ever have been, careful of, and attentive to the best and kindest of masters; and by so doing, you will ensure to yourself the never-ending gratitude of my mother and myself."

"If I do not," replied Rampart, with zeal, "endeavour to deserve this confidence, Miss, why d'ye see—forgive me if it sounds rash—may I perish for ever!"

The dreaded hour soon arrived that was destined to part Captain Pembroke from his family. Adeliza bore the separation as she promised she would, with fortitude; but Mrs. Pembroke was so violently affected, that she fainted away several times. In this cruel situation, Captain Pembroke was forced to tear himself from her; and threw himself into the chaise that waited for him, in a state of mind little short of distraction.

When

When Mrs. Pembroke recovered, and found her husband was in reality gone, she burst into a violent passion of tears, and, in the bitterest terms, upbraided herself as being the fatal cause of this separation; till, quite exhausted, she sunk almost insensible on the sofa. She was thence led by her agitated daughter to her bed-room, and by her persuaded to lie down, which request she complied with, upon condition that she should be left entirely alone. This injunction Adeliza durst not attempt to dispute; and she reluctantly retired from her mother's chamber, praying most devoutly that peace and serenity might be restored to her distracted breast.

Rampartsatsilent, not presuming to interrupt the sorrowful meditations of his respected master, although he ardently wished to

enter upon a favourite theme—fighting and glory.

The sun, now rising in majestic splendour, quickly dispelled the thick vapours of the morning; the birds on either side chanted forth their matin song, while the guileless and contented shepherds whistled merrily as they drove their harmless flocks to pasture. As Captain Pembroke contemplated these pleasing objects, resignation imperceptibly took possession of his breast; and he and his faithful companion in arms performed the remainder of their journey, if not with pleasure, at least without those painful sensations that harassed him during the former part of it.

Adeliza was surprised to see her mother come down early to the breakfast parlour, and much more composed than she could have

have hoped ;—there was now no symptom left of that excessive regret that had so cruelly alarmed her. Her countenance was serene, though sorrowful. Mrs. Pembroke took no notice whatever of the agonizing separation of the morning, but busied herself, as if to drive away sad obtruding thought, and uncomfortable reflection. Adeliza tenderly fulfilled, to the utmost extent of her abilities, the promise she had made her father; and, by every means in her power, by every insinuating attention, endeavoured to comfort her mother. Nor were her endeavours fruitless. But what contributed more essentially to restore her tranquillity, was the receipt of a letter from Captain Pembroke, written in seemingly good spirits, and entreating her, as she valued his peace, to cease lamenting his absence.

CASTLE OF SANTA FE.

er this, a very friendly and
itation was given by Lady Raby
Miss Pembroke, begging they
d a fortnight at the Castle.
delighted with this courtesy
counts, but principally on her
no, she hoped, when obliged
society, and that of a truly
d, would cease to brood over
bereavement. The family was,
exception, charming, and in-
ly one they were upon an

CHAP. II.

In ev'ry vary'd posture, place, and hour,
How widow'd ev'ry thought of every joy!
Thought, busy thought! too busy for my peace!
Through the dark postern of time long eláps'd,
Led softly, by the stillness of the night,
Led, like a murderer (and such it proves!),
Strays (wretched rover!) o'er the pleasing past—
In quest of wretchedness perversely strays;
And finds all desert now, and meets the ghosts
Of my departed joys, a numerous train!

YOUNG.

RABY Castle was a majestic Gothic building; its situation beautifully romantic, and from time immemorial had been the residence of the Earls of that name.

The

The present possessor was a man of travel, and a man of the world; and, as too frequently is the case, in proportion as he knew much, despised much. His manners were pleasing, and his address perfectly agreeable. He married, because his parents desired him, without any predilection for the person with whom he united his fate. The lady had family and fortune to boast of; her temper easy, her manners soft, and her heart charitable. She and her Lord lived together in the most amicable manner; every request she made, was readily granted, for two reasons—first, because she never made an unreasonable demand; and, secondly, because she seldom, if ever, interfered with any of his plans or amusements. They had, at this period, been married almost thirty years, and were now as good friends as when first united.

united. Their family consisted of two sons and three daughters. Lord Richmond, the eldest, was, like his father, extravagant, thoughtless, and haughty. Percy, the second, was in the Navy; his person handsome, his temper excellent, and his heart the seat of honour, courage, and humanity. Lady Jane Surrey, the eldest daughter, like her elder brother, was lofty; but, added to this, was both malicious and affected, and in her person, what is generally styled a fine woman. The second, Lady Catherine, was all beauty, gentleness, candour, and unaffected goodness; at the same time, so extremely timid, that she might be frightened into saying or doing, what her guileless heart, upon reflection, disapproved. The youngest, Margaret, was a fine romping child of eight years of age, caressed by all. This
was

was the family from whom Mrs. and Miss Pembroke received the invitation mentioned in our first chapter. At this time, Lord Raby was in town with his eldest son;—Percy, who commanded a frigate, was at sea.

When Mrs. Pembroke, with her lovely daughter, arrived at Raby Castle, they were welcomed with all the warmth of true English hospitality. Lady Catherine hailed her dear and much-loved friend with tears of joy, while all united in declaring the pleasure this visit gave them.

“I must, my dear Mrs. Pembroke,” said the Countess, “observe, that I took it a little unkind in your worthy husband’s leaving the country, without so much as saying ‘good by to you.’ He must know that he is a prodigious favourite here. Can you make a sufficient excuse for him?”

“I am

"I am satisfied," replied Mrs. Pembroke, "that Lady Raby is not seriously offended with my dear Pembroke; else would not so sweet a smile accompany her reproof. Need I say how happy he would have been to wait upon you before his departure; but that was sudden, very unexpected, leaving time for nothing but grief and cruel regret to us, his disconsolate wife and daughter. Oh Heavens!" continued she, while tears flowed fast down her pale face, "what a heavy loss have I sustained!"

The Countess, grieved that she had unintentionally brought to mind the loss her friend had so recently sustained, anxiously endeavoured to divert her thoughts from the painful subject; and by her polite and humane attention, succeeded in restoring serenity to the bosom of her friend.

From

From the time the Pembrokes arrived at the Castle, Lady Jane had been confined to her room with (as she said) a violent nervous disorder. The Countess and Mrs. Pembroke were pleasing society for each other; and as Lady Catherine and Adeliza were firm friends, and lively Margaret being at all times willingly admitted to their party, no one appeared to grieve for the absence of Lady Jane: on the contrary, if by chance she ventured to leave her apartment to mix with them, a degree of restraint was thrown upon them.

"I wish," said Lady Margaret, "that sister Jane would never come into the music-room; for she will neither play herself, nor be pleased with us when she hears us."

"Indeed," replied Lady Catherine,
smiling,

smiling, "she must be very fastidious, if not delighted with *your* music, Margaret."

"Now, Catherine, you know," answered Margaret, with an arch look, "that nothing I do, could please her; but surely when dear Adeliza sings and plays, an angel might listen without any danger of being tired. I am sure I know *who* would be charmed, and only wish the sweet sounds never to cease. I won't tell you who I mean, Catherine; but I will whisper to Adeliza, and then I know what I shall see. Now do you look, Catherine; and if Adeliza does not blush, never believe me again, when I just told her the person I meant was brother Percy. Oh!" said the sweet child, hugging Adeliza round the neck, and kissing her, "I love you so dearly, you cannot think, because you
look

look so beautiful whenever I speak of dear Percy. I love him better than any body in the whole world ; and then Catherine, because she is my kind sister ; and then, dearest Adeliza, I love you more dearly than every body else put together."

Adeliza kissed the fond child, and the amiable trio went out to enjoy the pleasures of an afternoon ramble.

Plenty had now begun her golden reign ; the yellow fields waved thick with ripened corn. The pleasing harvest scene could here be viewed in its highest perfection ; while the prospect, equally gratifying to the eye and the heart, inspired in the breasts of the fair friends, sentiments of benevolence to their fellow-creatures, and gratitude towards the Bountiful Hand that scattered such a profusion of good ;
while,

while, as Thomson poetically describes the scene—

Pour'd from the villages, a num'rous train
Now spreads o'er all the fields. In formed array
The reapers move, nor shrink from heat or toil,
By emulation urg'd. Others dispers'd,
Or bind the sheaves, or load, or guide the wain
That tinkles as it passes. Far behind,
Old age and infancy, with careful hand,
Pick up each straggling ear.

This display was a feast to the little Margaret, who went and plucked handfuls from the full sheaves, which she gave to the ruddy children who gleaned. On their return to the Castle, they were told that Lord Raby, Lord Richmond, and another gentleman were arrived.

“ I'd lay any wager,” said Margaret, significantly, “ that sister Jane will be enough recovered to come down to see
this

this gentleman : mind my words, if she is not in the drawing-room as smart as can be."

" Upon my word, Margaret," said Lady Catherine, smiling, " I much fear we shall spoil you, and be forced to send you back to the nursery, if you grow so saucy :—do not you think we shall, Adeliza?"

" I am sure, sister, if Adeliza answers *yes*, she does not mean it, for her face says she loves Margaret ; and I am sure she would never—no, never consent to my being punished in that manner."

She tripped into the drawing-room first, and the next instant was in the arms of her father. As she foretold, Lady Jane was down stairs, and, more than this, seated, in apparently excellent spirits, chatting to an elegant young man who was lounging on the sofa. Lord Raby kindly welcomed

Adeliza,

Adeliza, and affectionately kissed Lady Catherine; then introduced them to Sir Armine Temple, who was the proud and inseparable companion of Lord Richmond. Sir Armine appeared struck with the uncommon beauty of Adeliza, and immediately left the sofa, to place himself on a seat next the one she occupied. The compliments he paid her, were in the most extravagant style of fashionable adulation. To take what he said in a serious point of view, Adeliza's good sense forbade: she therefore either returned his overflowing civilities with pleasantry, or answered him in a style of such proud irony, as totally defeated the end he wished to obtain.

In the evening, music was proposed by Lord Raby, and with pleasure assented to by the rest of the party. Here Sir Armine shone with peculiar grace, being a perfect

cognoscente in this charming science. He played with masterly execution and the greatest taste on almost every instrument, and sang with the utmost harmony. Here, too, Adeliza particularly excelled, and this evening even outdid herself. The applause she received from all (excepting Lady Jane) really pained her; for, unused to such high encomiums, she feared she could not possibly merit them, and, for that reason, felt rather depressed than gratified.

At Raby Castle all was now bustle and gaiety; and Mrs. Pembroke, who had not recovered spirits enough to enjoy it, fancied herself a restraint upon her friends. This she could not reconcile to her scrupulous feelings; therefore proposed to Adeliza returning home. Her daughter, who saw and grieved at the visible dejection into which her dear mother had relapsed, though

though she endeavoured as much as possible to conceal it, made not the least objection to this arrangement, nor in the least repined at being deprived of such pleasing society: and although Lady Catherine was grieved to part with her amiable friend so soon, she too well knew the firmness of her mind, to think of attempting to persuade her to prolong her stay with them. Lady Raby considerably insisted upon their taking little Margaret with them for a week or two.

“ I know,” said she, “ no one to whom I would entrust my darling but yourself. With you, my dear friend, I feel she will be as safe as under my own eye. Her lively sallies and infantine gaiety will amuse you; and I trust, when she returns to me, it will be in company with you, restored to ease and serenity.”

... at the door of the house
society; and from Sir Armine
lar, Adeliza receiving many el
pliments, our friends steppe
carriage with the delighted Ma
arrived in safety at the ancien
that for many years had been th
of the Pembroke family.

CHAP. III.

Once by the Muse alone inspir'd .

I sang my am'rous strains ;

No serious love my bosom fir'd,

Yet ev'ry tender maid deceiv'd

The idly mournful tale believ'd,

And wept my fancied pains.

But Venus now, to punish me

For having feigned so well,

Has made my heart so fond of thee,

That not the whole Aonian choir

Can accents soft enough inspire,

Its real flame to tell.

TIME had rendered many parts of this
once fine building totally useless. It had,
in former hostile days, been strongly
c 3 fortified :

fortified: now, happily, there was no necessity for any defence of this sort; and, as keeping every part of it in repair, would have been attended with great expence, which Captain Pembroke could not afford, the fortifications were allowed to go to ruin; which, so far from disfiguring the scene, added to the beauty of it considerably. On one side rose a high hill, thickly covered with wood; in the front was a lawn, on which the elegant and nimble deer lightly bounded; and from the back part of the building was seen the vast ocean, terminated only by the clouds. The sands were close to the house; and, when the sea was stormy, it not only washed the walls of it, but sometimes threatened to sweep away the whole fabric. As yet it had firmly withstood these repeated attacks; and the inhabitants, long inured

inured to it, ceased to regard them with dread.

Adeliza's room was almost the only habitable one in the back part of the building; but as she was particularly partial to the view thence, she heeded not what many females would have considered as a tremendous punishment—nay, even fancied they must have expired, had they, for one night only, been exposed to danger like it. The screaming of the sea-fowls, the roaring of the ocean, with the lashing of the waves, were to her no objects of terror; and with confidence and tranquillity she laid her head on her pillow, and sweetly enjoyed the tranquil slumbers of unoffending innocence. Soon after their arrival—

“Remember,” said Lady Margaret, “that I told you I had two requests to make,

and you may also recollect you promised to grant them."

"I will with pleasure, my love," replied Adeliza, smiling.

"Well then, the first is, that I may sleep with you, and the second, that I may not be called *Lady*. You and dear mamma Pembroke are not called so, neither will Margaret."

"It shall be as you wish, my love," said Adeliza; "but I much fear you will not like to sleep with me when you see my room."

"Wherever you are," replied Margaret, with vivacity, "I shall like to be; it must be pleasant. But come, do let me see it."

On being taken into the chamber, she ran to the window; then flew back into Adeliza's arms.

"Now," said he, "I love you ten thousand times better than ever, because
you

you have chosen this part of the house; and I can guess the reason of it:—is it not because, dear Adeliza, when you look out of the window, you think of brother Percy? And as the sea is the last thing you gaze upon at night, and the first object you see in the morning, you cannot help praying he may return in safety to us! Is not this true, dear, dear Adeliza?"

The next day brought the young ladies from Raby Castle, and with them Lord Richmond and Sir Armine Temple. Lady Jane complained terribly of the fatigue she had endured in this sultry walk; and, by every art in her power, endeavoured to attach Sir Armine to herself; but this not being exactly suited to the noble Baronet's inclination, and he making it a rule to act as fancy directed, paid his whole devoirs to Adeliza, who, so far from being flat-

tered by his attention, or wishing to encourage it, by every civil means in her power, tried to avoid it. To do this, however, was next to an impossibility. Lady Catherine, perceiving that the visit grew unpleasant to more than one of the party, proposed returning to the Castle, which was strenuously opposed by Sir Armine. The others rising to take their leave, he could not singly hold out; with a bad grace he said he would accompany them, not without pathetically lamenting the cruelty of his destiny to Adeliza, that for a moment had introduced him to the presence of an angel, to make him miserable in being thus torn from her fascinating society.

Lady Jane, who overheard this speech, tossed her head with an air of disdain; and not deigning to wish the object of her
envy

envy a good morning, left the house. Sir Armine walked on without noticing her Ladyship, humming an air that Adeliza had been singing.

“What a divine creature that Miss Pembroke is!—How enchantingly she sings!” said he; and again he hurried over the tune.

This was too much; and Lady Jane begged he would, for God’s sake, not bore her with those doleful strains. Sir Armine, laughing, replied, he was sorry she had so little taste; at the same time, offering his arm, which she could not refuse.

“Come,” said he, “I will now endeavour to make up for my negligence.”

Paying her a few compliments had the desired effect of restoring her to good humour, and the party arrived at the Castle in tolerable spirits. When the ladies

went up-stairs to dress, Sir Armine, taking Lord Richmond by the arm—

“ I wish,” said he, “ to have some serious conversation with you.”

“ Serious conversation !” returned his Lordship, laughing ; “ I like that of all things from you ! Why, on my soul, you look as grave as if you were meditating matrimony !”

“ In faith,” replied Sir Armine, “ though I am almost ashamed to confess it, your Lordship has hit pretty near the mark. You well know I never had any particular partiality towards the married state, nor do I now feel any strong inclination to enter its trammels, could my purpose be effected otherwise ; but of that I have not the most remote hope : though women, I believe we both can witness, are seldom invincible. You, who know me well, and the
suscepti-



susceptibility of my heart, must have already discovered how deep an impression has been made upon it by that charming girl, Adeliza Pembroke. Now tell me who and what the lovely creature is. What is her father? What other relations is she blessed or tormented with? And last, though by no means the least consideration, what is her *fortune*?—or has she——”

“ Stop, my good friend, not quite so fast: give me leave to answer, as far as I can, the questions you have already put to me, or I shall confound them all together, and not be able to resolve one. In the first place, then, her father is in the Army, a Captain I believe, and, as I have always understood, a very worthy man; of what family he is, it is said, no one in this part of the country can tell. He has lived in the house where we were this morning, ever
since

since I can remember any thing, and has, if I mistake not, never been separated from his family till within this month, and is at present under way for Africa. I hope you will allow that I have answered you methodically."

" Oh, capitally indeed," replied Sir Armine; " but pray do proceed: I am all impatience. Has she any brother, or brothers?"

" The singular number," replied Lord Richmond; " and I assure you one of the handsomest youths I ever saw in my life. He is also in the Army—the only profession, in my mind, at all calculated for him. Do not mistake me, and suppose it is because in general so idle a life; on the contrary, 'tis the active fighting part he is cut out for: indeed, he has already signalized himself by his gallant and intrepid conduct.

If

"If there be a man on earth I should be *afraid* (I may say so to you) to offend, George Pembroke is that man."

"And pray, my Lord, where may this redoubtable hero be at present?"

"In the East-Indies," replied Lord Richmond.

"So much the better," said Sir Armine, laughing; "such a hot-headed fellow as you describe him to be, is best at a long distance."

Lord Richmond went on.

"Relations of her's, I never saw nor heard of; and as for fortune, I should, as far as I can judge, rather suppose it must be inconsiderable. Her mother you have seen; but how unlike what she used to be! I suppose the unfashionable regret she feels at her husband's departure, is the cause of this change; for her spirits
used

used to be excellent. Her understanding is uncommonly fine; while her pride is rather excessive, and indeed must be esteemed her only fault. As to Adeliza, I will confess to you, that, had I not been firmly resolved against so imprudent a step, considering her want of fortune, I might have been silly enough to fall in love with her; but that, thank Heaven, I have hitherto escaped, by avoiding, as much as with good manners I could, her too fascinating society. She is, to a certainty, a most charming girl; and what adds infinitely to even her uncommon beauty, is being so perfectly unconscious of its power."

"All you have said," replied Sir Armine, "is most true—she is, on my soul, above all praise; and I fear I shall now pay dearly, and with interest, for all my former

former indifference to the sex. She ought, however, far to surpass them all in beauty and merit, when these are probably her only recommendation. What will the gay world say to my folly, should I marry a penniless, modest Hebe? Should I not have a strait-waistcoat prescribed?—This now, it strikes me, requires some grave consideration. I shall, however, let things take their own course for some little time at least: I need not be precipitate, you know, Richmond.”

“ That,” replied his Lordship, “ rests with yourself; and so far you surely may act as your inclination dictates: but you do not seem to admit any doubt of Adaliza’s readiness to accept you. Can you settle it in your wise mind to make her an offer?”

“ No,”

“ No,” replied Sir Armine, with a self-satisfied air, while a smile of triumph crossed his handsome face, “ I do not apprehend I need dread any repulse from that quarter.”

“ Success attend you !” said Lord Richmond, smiling at the vanity of his friend ; “ I only wish you may not have raised your hopes on too slender a foundation.”

Here the conversation, for the present, ceased, and the gentlemen returned to the Castle.

From this period, not a day passed that did not bring Sir Armine Temple to the house of Captain Pembroke ; and it generally so happened, that Adeliza and little Margaret were the only part of the family he saw. Mrs. Pembroke spent most of her time in her own apartment, where she
could

could be alone; the depression on her spirits seeming to gain ground, rather than to abate. Her absence was the very thing of all others, Sir Armine wished for: in her company he felt a sort of restraint by no means agreeable. Adeliza grew rather distressed at the frequent visits of Sir Armine, and would have been much better satisfied, could she by any means have avoided them. To do this was impossible, as he never enquired if she was at home; but, with the mistaken freedom of self-opinion, walked with the greatest composure into the room where she generally sat: and if he found her not there, went to the instrument, and amused himself till the sound of it brought her into the room.

All Sir Armine Temple said and did, was with a grace peculiar to himself. In his person he was tall and very handsome; his

his features expressive of manly sense; his countenance animated and liberal; his hand extremely fair, and finely formed; and in his manners polished and elegant. He had travelled a great deal, had read more, could converse fluently in almost every living language, had studied deeply human nature, knew every thing and every body, and was, when he chose, a thorough well-bred and entertaining companion. But with all these agreeables, he was a complete *man of the world*. This Adeliza had sagacity enough to discover; and that not being the sort of character it was possible for her to esteem, rendered her mind and heart superior to every attack from that quarter.

Sir Armine Temple could not help feeling the indifference with which his high-wrought compliments, his anxious assiduities,

duities, were received by the fair object of his impassioned love, and plainly perceived that, by flattery, he should never succeed; but his heart was too deeply entangled, for him a moment to think of giving up the pursuit. No compliment was now paid to her, but in the most delicate and guarded manner. A person of her superior *sense* could not fail of always acting and saying right. On the other hand, no insinuation or accommodating stratagem was left untried to gain her heart;—but had Adeliza a heart to bestow?

CHAP. IV.

The smoothest course of Nature has its pain,
And truest friends, through error, wound and pain,
Without misfortune, what calamities?
And what hostilities, without a foe?
Nor are foes wanting to the best on earth:
But endless is the list of human ills,
And sighs might sooner fail, than cause to

THREE months had already elapsed
since the departure of the

which he had embarked. It was now the dreary and comfortless month of November. Lady Raby had sent for little Margaret home, fearing that, being much exposed to the sea air, she might suffer from it. The sweet child could hardly be prevailed upon to leave her friends, so strongly was her young heart attached to them; Adeliza, in return, loving her with the utmost tenderness.

As to Mrs. Pembroke, she grew more and more averse to society, and shut herself up almost entirely in her own apartment. Home was, indeed, become to Adeliza sad and solitary; and the appearance of every thing without doors was equally so. The trees, stripped of their verdant foliage, now appeared left as so many monuments of decay and desolation: the sea was often black with tempests, and at best looked

looked dreary and cold. The extreme badness of the weather kept the two families asunder, excepting, indeed, Sir Armine, who heeded neither ways, nor wind, nor weather.

One morning, after he had left her, she went to her instrument, intending to put away the music they had been playing together, when a paper dropped out of one of the books. Adeliza picked it up, and was just going to throw it carelessly aside, when she perceived it was addressed to herself. Rather surprised, she unfolded it, and found it was a copy of verses.

Yes, thou art well reveng'd, Oh mighty Love!
For slighted threats and slighted favours past;
Nor did my heart so long rebellious prove,
But to be made thy snare slave at last.

Unable

Unable longer to resist thy sway,
Lo! at thy altar prostrate now I fall;
To thee my homage and my vows I pay;
To thee who, first or last, art Lord of all.

Why then, perverse, should I reject the chain
Which all mankind are once ordain'd to prove?
Ah no! I ask not liberty again:
For what is liberty to those who love?

Adieu to liberty, thou sacred name!
For other gifts, for other joys I pine;
In one fair breast I wish a mutual flame,
For one fair breast alone to burn with mine.

Indulgent deity! to thee I bend:
If with pure heart I now thy power adore;
If e'er her ears to fervent vows attend,
Give Adeliza, and I ask no more.

ARMINE TEMPLE.

Adeliza read these verses with a mixed
emotion of admiration and sorrow; though,

upon second thoughts, she hoped he was not in earnest in his professions, but only took this method of displaying his poetical talents. This latter opinion gained her belief, and she quietly put the paper into her *ecritoir*; and her mother calling her, she thought no more of it.

As Adeliza sat at breakfast the next morning alone, Lady Catherine and Sir Armine entered the room. With joy she rose to welcome her amiable friend; but was struck to the heart upon seeing sorrow so legibly marked on her dear Catherine's face, that it was impossible to misinterpret the sad characters.

“ Oh Heavens !” exclaimed Adeliza, in fearful agitation, “ what is the matter ? For pity's sake, instantly tell me what dreadful news are you in vain endeavouring to lighten. I know it must be terrible,” said

she, as she fixed an eager look of enquiry on the pale face of Lady Catherine; "but do not, therefore, keep me longer in this state of torturing suspense: no certainty, however dreadful, can be worse than my presaging heart anticipates. Sir Armine, will not you speak?"

"Would to God, my dear friend," said he, "I had the power in any degree of dispelling your fears! But that, alas! is impossible."

"Oh!" exclaimed Adeliza, raising her fine expressive eyes, "ye heavenly powers, strengthen me to bear with fortitude whatever be the distressful news. Now," said she, with a look of deathlike anticipation, "I am prepared for the worst."

Lady Catherine sat weeping, while Sir Armine, with folded arms, hastily traversed

the room. He approached Adeliza, and taking both her hands into his—

“ Prepare yourself,” said he, while his voice faltered, “ my sweet friend, for the recital of a most mournful event :—your father is for ever at rest !”

Adeliza sunk upon the floor, bereft of sense ; Lady Catherine, dreadfully alarmed, flew to help her ; and, with the assistance of Sir Armine, Adeliza was restored to life. On opening her eyes, and perceiving both of them hanging over her with looks of the most tender solicitude, she burst into tears. This, in some measure, relieved her throbbing breast ; and she, with agonized eagerness, insisted on being acquainted with the fatal particulars.

She was then informed by her sympathizing visitors, that they had at breakfast
that

that morning accidentally read in the newspaper an account of the shocking catastrophe. The paragraph stated that the ship, on board of which were many officers, and among them, Captain Pembroke by name, had foundered on the Barbary coast, and every soul on board had perished! This event they wished to break to her as gently as possible; and, for that purpose, had instantly, upon reading it, left the Castle, lest it should meet her or her mother's eye in the same unexpected and unprepared manner.

Sir Armine had scarcely finished speaking, when they were almost transfixed with horror on hearing a dreadful shriek.

"Oh God, it is my mother!" frantically exclaimed Adeliza; and, rapid as thought, ran up stairs.

Here she found her worst fears verified; for, extended on the floor, to all appearance dead, was her adored mother, and by her side the fatal newspaper. Adeliza, in agony beyond expression, kneeled down by the side of her; she chafed her mother's temples, but, alas! without effect. Lady Catherine had followed her friend, and hearing her expressions of despairing sorrow, without further ceremony entered the chamber:—their united efforts were fruitless. In a few minutes, every individual in the family was assembled: consternation was pictured on every countenance; for now it was past a doubt that life had forever fled from the body of the unfortunate Mrs. Pembroke. Every endeavour that art could suggest, was ineffectually tried. Sir Armine himself went immediately

diately for assistance; but before he returned, the body was cold, and almost stiff. He then hastened to the Castle, and easily obtained leave for Lady Catherine to remain with her afflicted friend. Adeliza was grateful to her Catherine for her kind intention, but would, upon no account, hear of her remaining with her.

“As the loss,” said she, “my dear Catherine, is irreparable, so the grief I feel is deep and immovable. Do not, therefore, I beseech you, my love, distress me by your kindness. Let me entreat you to return to the Castle, and leave me to the misery of my desolate condition, for I am now an orphan!”

Before the funeral took place, Adeliza looked over the papers that belonged to her mother, in case there might be any directions for her to follow: this was the

last act of duty she should ever have it in her power to perform. How solemn, how heart-rending a task was this! Nothing, however, of any consequence was discovered: some valuable diamonds were all the treasure met with; which, together with her father's and mother's miniatures, she carefully laid by. Adeliza, though her heart was almost broken, yet exerted herself, and behaved with the most astonishing fortitude, giving every necessary direction, and seeing it put in execution.

The family at the Castle were shocked and grieved at the sad events a single day had so disastrously combined; and united in declaring that they would do all that lay in their power, to reconcile the fair orphan to her truly melancholy fate.

Adeliza, left alone in the chamber where lay the cold remains of her much-loved
and

and highly valued mother, had mournful time to reflect at leisure on the awful vicissitudes of life ! Both parents torn from her by the relentless hand of Death ! How dreadful, how desolate was her situation ! To think was almost madness, but to avoid harrowing reflexion, impossible.

The day soon arrived on which the remains of the hapless Mrs. Pembroke were to be consigned to their last cold abode. Adeliza, with the domestics of the family, alone attended the solemn scene, where the grief of the honest creatures bore ample and honourable testimony to the amiable qualities of their much-lamented mistress. Adeliza was deeply affected by their artless sorrow and expressions of concern, and retired to indulge in all the luxury of woe.

What steps ought next to be taken,

D 5

Adeliza

Adeliza felt herself unequal to decide upon. The melancholy events that had, in such rapid succession, succeeded one another, had scarcely allowed her time to feel the real extent of the loss she had sustained; but now she began to reflect with anguish intolerable on her situation, and passed the night in tears of bitter grief.

A few days brought Lady Catherine, with her darling Margaret, in hopes of diverting the deep melancholy under which Adeliza sunk; and, at the same time, a letter from the Countess, written in a style of the most soothing kindness, entreating Adeliza to accompany her daughters back to Raby Castle.

Adeliza's heart shrunk at the idea of being obliged to mix in company; but her friends so warmly urged her to comply
with

with their wishes, and accompany them, at the same time promising that she should, in every respect, be her own mistress, and mix with the company, or not, as she might incline, that, at last, she reluctantly consented, and, with a heavy, aching heart, stepped into the carriage with her two amiable friends.

CHAP. V.

Her form was fresher than the morning rose,
When the dew wets its leaves.

THOM

THE soothing attention paid to Anne
in particular by Lady Raby and
Miss Catherine, together with the
lively behaviour of the little Mar-
garet, gave her a great degree of content.

Of hearing some palliating circumstances; but, alas! no such comparative relief was the result: on the contrary, all the first account was painfully corroborated. Nothing now remained but for her to endeavour to bear with fortitude her present distressful, and almost destitute condition.

Something it was necessary should now be determined upon. To take it for granted that she was to remain at Raby Castle, would have been equally idle and improper; but, without a friend, to whom could she apply for advice? In her present distress, whichever way she turned her thoughts, so many difficulties and embarrassments rose, as perplexed and confounded her; and the more she endeavoured to extricate herself, the more deeply she felt bewildered. Should she apply to the Countess in this exigency, would

would it not appear like soliciting her protection?—From this her pride revolted. Lady Jane was entirely out of the question; for she always treated her with reserve—sometimes with a coldness bordering upon contempt; at least, so Adeliza's quick apprehension construed it. As to Lady Catherine, she, from the natural timidity of her disposition, was the last person in the world calculated to advise or direct her. The gentlemen of that family, though at all times perfectly civil, she could not take the liberty of consulting. The only person who might have assisted her in this emergency, had been for some time absent from the Castle on unavoidable business. The person here alluded to, was Sir Armine Temple; and he was now expected daily. She had not, however, by any means, settled this in her own mind; for,

for, although she had a high opinion of his judgment, she would, if possible, avoid laying herself under what might be deemed an obligation to him.

When Sir Armine arrived at the Castle, Adeliza, with Lady Margaret, were in the garden. As he alighted from his horse, he perceived them, and quickly joined them. Approaching Adeliza, with looks of transport—

“ My angel friend,” said he, in an animated tone of voice, “ how delighted am I once more to have the felicity of beholding you? Tell me how you have been, and what you have been doing, and how you are at present? The last question—I must correct myself—was surely unnecessary; for you look angelically! By the power of Love, my eyes have beheld nothing but ugliness and deformity since

CASTLE OF SANTA FE.

left you. Those who before passed
ble, I cannot now look upon with
patience, so all-commanding is
t of your charms! Ah Adeliza!
incomparable girl! did you but
w dear to my heart you are—with
er vent passion I adore you!”
o here, Sir Armine,” said Adeliza,
ng to force a smile, “and I will
for you;” at the same time imi-
e amorous whine of his voice—

adoration's fertile tears,

"I hope," said Sir Armine, endeavouring to conceal his mortification under a forced gaiety, "if you charitably deprive me of sincerity, you will at least allow I possess patience."

"That, Sir Armine," returned Adeliza, "I shall neither dispute, nor put to the test; therefore I wish you a good morning."

"Think not," said he vehemently, "that I will so easily part with you."

"Sir Armine," said Adeliza, in a grave and dignified tone, "I am more surprised and hurt by your present conduct, than language can express. From you, Sir, I confess, I expected sympathy, not insult."

"Good God!" said Sir Armine, "what have I done!—what madness been guilty of! Dearest, most amiable of women, forgive me, and I will no more offend. I am

am sensible I have behaved foolishly and unbecomingly, and I stand corrected. Impute the improper warmth of my language to the joy I felt on suddenly beholding you. Confessing myself, as I now do, essentially in fault, can you, lovely Miss Pembroke, all candour and goodness as you are—can you deny me your forgiveness?"

"My pardon, Sir Armine, I certainly shall not withhold, after the apology you have been pleased to make; but I trust this will be the last time you will have occasion to require, or I to grant it."

"Accept, incomparable woman," said Sir Armine, "the warmest thanks of my devoted heart; and may I eternally perish——"

"No more, Sir Armine, I entreat; it is not now a time to harrow up my feelings
with

with such sort of conversation: once more, I wish you good morning;" and, quickening her pace, Adeliza was soon out of sight.

She, with little Margaret, immediately went up stairs; and, going into her chamber, she threw herself into a seat, and burst into tears. Margaret approached, looked wistfully in her face, and laying her head on Adeliza's lap, began weeping from sympathy.

"My love," said Adeliza, roused from her own sorrow by that of the artless child, "what is the matter with you?"

"Oh Adeliza!" replied the innocent, "I cannot, indeed I cannot bear to see you grieve so sadly; I love you so dearly—yes, as much as brother Percy. I wish, from my heart, he would come to us; and then that naughty tall gentleman would
not

not dare to vex you: indeed I cannot endure him, although Jane says he uncommonly handsome. I am sure this—he has a very good opinion of himself.”

While the harmless chat of Margaret was going on, an unusual bustle was heard in the court-yard. Margaret ran to the window, and saw a chaise covered with mud, the horses smoking from fatigue.

“ Oh!” said she, “ here are some visitors; I shall go and enquire who: and then, if it is any formal people, dear Adeliza, you will permit me to dine snug here with you—will you not?”

Being answered in the affirmative, she skipped down stairs; but quickly returned with her eyes sparkling, while delight had crimsoned her chubby cheeks, and flung her into Adeliza’s arms, exclaiming—

“

"He is come—he is come!"

"Who, my love?" anxiously enquired Adeliza.

"Cannot you guess? I should not be half so glad to see all the world beside:—why, it is Percy, my own dear, dear Percy! So when I saw it was he, I just kissed him, and then hurried up stairs to tell you; because I knew it would give you pleasure: so pray make haste, or else I cannot stay, indeed; for Percy is all this time alone. He does not know you are here, and there is not a soul beside in the house to welcome the dear fellow. I dare say he already wonders what can be become of me."

Adeliza hastened to welcome home the friend of her early days. On opening the door, Percy turned to see who entered,

entered, and the next instant Adeliza was in his arms.

"This," said he, his fine face animated with joy, while his dark eyes sparkled with delighted surprise, "this is, indeed, unexpected happiness!—Yes," continued he, as he tenderly surveyed the object of his love, "'tis she indeed!"

"Dearest Percy," said Adeliza, while tears trembled in her eyes, "I am truly rejoiced to see you. Still do I find you the same noble-minded friend I parted with three years ago. Ah, Percy! did you but know what, within these few months, I have suffered, your heart would bleed!"

"Oh, yes, indeed," softly whispered Margaret to her anxious brother, "there are two more angels in heaven, that you will

will love when you go there yourself; but that must be a long, long time first."

"Gracious God!" exclaimed Percy, in a tone of heartfelt sorrow, while the blood entirely forsook his face, as he cast a look on the deep mourning Adeliza wore.

"Yes, my friend," said she, while sobs almost choked her utterance, "'tis true, I have suffered dreadfully. Oh Percy! could not the cruel and unrelenting hand of Death have spared me one parent?—but bereave me of both—and such parents as never child before was blessed with! You, my friend, who knew their excellence, will, with me, I am certain, deeply deplore their loss."

"To say, my Adeliza, how much I feel, would be impossible. The affection I bore them, shall now be added to that I
ever

ever felt for you. I will prove the sincerity of my regard for them, by my conduct towards their inestimable daughter. Never," said he, with fervour, "shall she want a firm protector, an affectionate husband, (if she will bless him with that title) as long as Percy breathes. Do not, my love, think me precipitate or indelicate in now urging this: you know your much-lamented father had promised me this blessed distinction; and I flatter myself he did not change his mind: so that, in pressing this, I am, I trust, fulfilling his wishes."

"This, Percy," answered Adeliza, greatly affected by his generous conduct, "is a subject much must be said upon: at this time, I feel myself unequal to the interesting task. Allow me, my dear friend, to retire to my room, where I may endeavour

endeavour to calm my agitated spirits, before I am obliged to join the family at dinner. God for ever bless you !”

She extended her fair hand, which he fervently pressed to his heart.

“ Farewell,” said he, “ for the present ! May all good angels hover round my love, and restore her wonted serenity !”

Margaret remained with her brother, and distinctly related to him the disastrous events that had happened since he left the Castle. Percy heard, with unfeigned grief, the shocking recital ; for he had the highest opinion of, and the greatest regard for, both Captain and Mrs. Pembroke. His generous heart now exulted in the idea that, by proving his respect for their memory by becoming the protector of their lovely orphan daughter, he should

not only perform his duty, but ensure his own happiness.

These pleasing meditations were interrupted by the return of the family from their morning's excursion. Lady Raby received her darling son with inexpressible joy; the whole family likewise uniting in cordially welcoming home the gallant sailor.

Adeliza sent down to say she should not dine at table, pleading in excuse a violent headach. Percy sighed.

"Indeed," said Lady Jane, casting a haughty glance towards Sir Armine, "Adeliza has grown intolerably affected of late, since such a ridiculous fuss has been made about her."

Sir Armine, who well knew this was spoken at him, bowed with an air of mock gravity;

gravity; while Lady Catherine, with spirit, replied—

“Certainly, Jane, you cannot think as you say; for Adeliza is as much above affectation, as she surpasses all praise.”

“You are a noble girl for thus taking up the cause of your angel friend; and,” continued Percy, kissing her glowing cheek, “accept a brother’s warmest thanks. Nothing surely but envy’s self could censure so perfect a being as Miss Pembroke. Oh Jane! three years ago you would not thus have spoken of your friend.”

“Friend!” retorted Lady Jane, indignantly; “I never boasted of the honour of Miss Pembroke’s friendship. No, to her female champion on your right, belongs that enviable title.”

The contemptuous manner in which this was expressed, cut the timid Catherine to the heart; and, bursting into tears, she entreated her haughty sister's pardon, if she had given her offence. It was granted in an ungracious manner, but accepted with sweet humility. This little fray awoke most unpleasant sensations in the breasts of more than one person at table; but, as each confined their uneasiness to their own breast, good humour was, to all appearance, in a great measure, restored. Lord Raby, without giving himself leave to think why, was both hurt and alarmed at the generous warmth with which his son had spoken of Adeliza. This Lady Raby easily read in the countenance of her Lord, and trembled for the happiness of her son. Lady Jane burned with anger
and

and mortification; Lady Catherine felt uncomfortable that she had, though innocently, been the cause of uneasiness; Percy, wounded in the tenderest and most vulnerable point, grieved for, and wondered at the cruelty of human nature; while Sir Armine Temple, tortured by jealous fears, durst scarcely confess, even to himself, how much he felt convinced, beyond a doubt, that he loved the too fascinating and beautiful Adeliza. When he contemplated his handsome rival, he almost began to dread that he might for once prove an unsuccessful suitor; for he had as yet, or fancied he had, proved irresistible. This was to him a most mortifying and unwelcome reflection, which, however, he in vain endeavoured to banish from his mind. In short, the only unruffled and unconcerned person at table, was Lord Richmond.

CHAP. VI.

Companion of my tender age,
Serenely gay, and sweetly sage,
How blithsome were we wont to rove
By verdant hill, or shady grove,
While fervent bees, with humming voice,
Arpund the honey'd oak rejoice.

DORINGTON.

IT will be necessary to go back a few years, and give an account of circumstances which will explain some of the present proceedings. Adeliza and Percy, brought up together from their infancy, loved

loved each other with the purest and most ardent passion, which "grew with their growth, and strengthened with their strength;" though, at that time, in a manner unknown to themselves. Lady Raby, ever an attentive and affectionate mother, devoted her whole time and thoughts to her family, Raby Castle being her constant place of residence. Lord Raby, unused to confinement or controul, could not bear this dull and monotonous life himself, though he highly approved of it for his Lady; therefore, when either business or inclination invited, he went to town as usual, and there enlivened the scene.

The Countess, as we have observed, laid it down as a rule, from which she never deviated, on no account whatever, either to make enquiry, or objection to any

scheme proposed by her Lord. This conduct he esteemed meritorious, and approved; and for that reason, treated her at all times with kind attention.

Naturally reserved, the Countess had but few acquaintance, and among these, not one she really esteemed, till accident introduced her to Mrs. Pembroke. The ladies were mutually pleased; and from that period a friendship was formed, that ended but with life. As the young people grew up, the agreeable intercourse of the parents was more strongly cemented by the love of the children for one another. Lord Richmond was sent early to a public school, and Lady Jane went to live with her grandmother. Percy and Catherine, left with their amiable mother, were the constant companions of George and Adeliza Pembroke. Percy went to school
with

with George, and regarded him as a brother; while the gentle Catherine was never so happy as when Adeliza and she accompanied each other in their various studies of music, drawing, French, and Italian together. Nor were the more solid and useful parts of education neglected; far from it—all that young women ought to know, they acquired also, and did the greatest justice to the faithful and accomplished person, who had the charge of them as governess. In this respect, her juvenile charge were particularly fortunate; for in Miss Brown was joined such sweetness of manners, to so thorough a knowledge of every branch of ornamental education, that she could not fail of being beloved by her pupils, and by the Countess justly looked on as a treasure. All that Adeliza learned at the Castle, was kept up by her

sensible, prudent, and well-directing mother at home; so that no portion of precious time was lost or misapplied. In this manner was spent the early part of these amiable young people's lives, while the infant Margaret was as yet a charming plaything.

The time at length came, that must of necessity separate some of this pleasant society. George Pembroke had a commission purchased for him, and Percy's choice was the sea. Sad was the mutual parting; but violent sorrow soonest subsides, as was the case in the present instance; and all consoled themselves with the pleasing hope of meeting again. More than two years elapsed before this took place, and then each looked on the other with wonder, at the alteration that time had made in their appearance. Captain Pembroke

now

now began to tremble for the peace of his lovely daughter. True it was, she as yet was too young to think of forming any connection to last for life; but first impressions are often the strongest, and such being plain to be discovered, he could not help feeling as a father, solicitous for the welfare of his child. His apprehensions were communicated to his wife, and from her to the Countess, who unequivocally declared, that nothing would give her so much satisfaction, as to see her son united to such worth, elegance, and beauty, as were concentrated in Miss Pembroke; and further said she would acquaint her Lord with the attachment subsisting between the young people, little doubting to obtain his consent.

This assurance removed from the hearts of Captain and Mrs. Pembroke a heavy

load of uneasy anticipation. When Lady Raby disclosed the business to her Lord, he treated it with the utmost indifference; but on her pressing it, he answered in a careless manner—

“ Let the children amuse themselves, for aught I care.”

This Lady Raby unthinkingly took as a favourable answer, and, as such, communicated it to Percy. He lost not a moment's time in going to Captain Pembroke, entreating his permission to endeavour to obtain the regard of his amiable daughter. This granted, he flew on the wings of hope to Adeliza. She, unused to disguise, confessed how dear he was to her heart; and, having interchanged vows of constancy, they parted mutually satisfied and delighted.

Three years had now elapsed since these

events had taken place. Lord Richmond had finished his studies, and was constantly with his mother. Lady Jane, losing her grandmother, (who left her a considerable fortune at her own disposal), now lived with her own family. Miss Brown, the young gentlewoman who was mentioned before as governess, had been some time extremely well married, and little Margaret had become the joint pupil of her sister Catherine and Adeliza. But, alas! how short a time had brought to Adeliza's share the most distressing, the most irremediable afflictions!—Sad indeed, at the age of nineteen, to be left a friendless orphan!

Adeliza in her person was tall and graceful; her eyes dark, brilliant, and expressive; her nose, mouth, and teeth very beautiful; her countenance angelic; and her hand and arm inimitably formed.

There

There was a native dignity, with blended softness in her manner, that forced those who, from envy, would not admire her, at least to fear her. Like her father, she was generous, compassionate, and humane—like her mother, lofty when urged to it, but possessing an understanding so strong, a mind so highly cultivated, as to render her not only an animating companion, but a most instructive one. She was ever the most obedient and dutiful of daughters, and a truly affectionate sister. Lady Raby she respected as a second mother; Lady Catherine she loved as a sister; Margaret was her darling favourite; but for Percy she felt even more than all these united; it was a sensation for which a name was wanting—at the same time so soothing to her heart, that worlds would not have tempted her to part with it.

Lord

Lord Raby, entirely engrossed by his own pleasures, never gave a second thought to what his Lady had said respecting Percy and Adeliza, till he witnessed the impassioned manner of his son at dinner-time. This brought to his memory the apparent acquiescence he had shewn some time back to his Countess; but on this head he did not suffer himself to be disturbed, resolving, should any thing farther occur on the subject, by one decisive command, to put a stop to such imprudent proceedings.

Adeliza, now left alone, had leisure to ruminate on all that in so short a space of time had overwhelmed her prospects. With sorrow the most acute, she lamented the dreadful loss she had so recently sustained. Her dear brother was too far removed, for her to look for comfort from him.

“ Whither

"Whither shall I fly," said she, mentally, "in search of happiness?—To Percy?" Peace was in that thought.—"Never," she argued, "will Percy desert his own, his much-loved Adeliza!"—Then intruded the bitter idea, and most unwelcome it was—"May not a change of circumstances cause also a change in Lord Raby's sentiments?—Will he still generously consent to accept as a daughter of his illustrious house, a poor and friendless orphan?—Oh heavens! this way I dare not trust my busy thoughts to wander!—be still, my apprehensive heart, nor meet uncertain ills!—Oh thou invisible, but all-pervading Power! direct my feeble steps; preserve me still from vanity and vice!—Ye blessed spirits of my sainted parents, look down with pity on the child of your loves!—May I

so live, that, when removed from this scene of sorrow and trial, I may be found not unworthy to be admitted an inhabitant of the realms above, partaking of your joys!"

Thus the artless girl endeavoured to comfort her drooping spirits; happily for her, she knew not, nor feared the ills which were prepared for her. Wisely ordered it is, we must with the deepest humility confess, that to us weak and erring mortals, the dread book of fate is not opened for our presumptuous inspection!—If such were the case, how deplorable, how truly wretched would often be our lot!

As soon as dinner was over, Lady Catherine went up to her friend. She found her with her head resting upon her hand, absorbed in deep meditation. On the opening of the door, she raised her head. Perceiving who entered, she mildly chid her

her friend for so early leaving the company below.

“ Oh my sweet friend !” said Catherine, “ you little know how infinitely dear to my heart you deservedly are, if for a moment you suppose there can be to me any amusement in frivolous chat or idle mirth, when my friend is unwell !”

“ Kind, considerate Catherine, how shall I ever repay such love, such attentive goodness !”

“ I will tell you,” said Catherine with vivacity ; “ by becoming indeed my sister. Thus, dearest Adeliza, you will make my brother the happiest of men, and repay me ten thousand times for any little attention I may have had it in my power to shew you.—But come—you have not yet told me how you like Percy after three years’ absence.”

For



For half an hour the friends sat quietly chatting together. Adeliza, finding her head easier, and not wishing to keep Lady Catherine any longer, proposed going down stairs. On entering the drawing-room, they found there only Lady Raby and Lady Jane, the latter reclining on a sofa, with a book by her side. This, on their entrance, she took up, and seemingly amused herself by turning over the leaves.

Lady Raby enquired kindly after Adeliza's health, and just then Sir Armine and Percy entered. Both gentlemen welcomed her down stairs; Percy seating himself next her, while Sir Armine took his station at the back of her chair, resolving that he would watch all that passed between them. Not that he was prompted to this by idle curiosity; his heart it was that led him to wish

wish to know certainly if there was an — real attachment between them. This ~~he~~ quickly found was the case. He could decipher the most artful of human characters; therefore he could have no difficulty whatever in discovering what there was no pains taken to conceal. The knowledge he now gained, conveyed to his bosom the acutest pain; but still he did not despair. Born to conquer, (at least so he had hitherto done), he could not bring himself to believe he should here fail. Thus he buoyed himself up, nor suffered distrust to torment him.

As these thoughts passed through his mind, a letter was brought to Miss Pembroke. She looked at the address; but the hand-writing she was unacquainted with. Breaking the seal, she bowed an apology to the company.

“ I have,”

"I have," said she, smiling, "taken permission before it was granted me; but I trust my friends will pardon the liberty."

Percy watched every turn of her expressive countenance, and observing she turned pale, anxiously said—

"Nothing unpleasant, I hope?"

"Not any thing," replied Adeliza, while her unsteady voice almost contradicted the assertion. "With my friends' permission," continued she, "I will read this extraordinary letter out."

All begged she would, excepting Lady Jane, who rose from her seat, and left the room. The colour rushed into Adeliza's face at this insult, and was quickly succeeded by a deathlike paleness. Percy with agony observed her emotion, as well as its source.

The

The letter she now read, was from a person wholly unknown to her, and indeed to all the party. Sir Armine Temple said he could swear, on hearing only the first line, that it was written by some infernal limb of the law, from the cold-drawn, yet artful style in which it was worded. This letter stated that the house in which the late Captain Pembroke resided, was not his own property, but that he only rented it ; that he had it for a term of years, which term was now expired, and had indeed been so for a month ; that, did she wish for a renewal of the lease, it must be on more advanced terms than a hundred a year : at that rent there were now two years in arrears, and it was required that it should immediately be settled. The notice concluded with begging a speedy answer.

“ If,”

"If," said Sir Armine, "you will do me the honour of taking my advice, you will be extremely cautious how you answer this letter. Depend upon it, some paltry pettifogger has been employed in this business; and if you do not make use of the utmost circumspection, he will draw you into some difficulty. I have experienced the treachery of these fellows to my loss; but with the experience I have so dearly gained, I flatter myself the deepest of them would find it a puzzling business to overreach me. But, dear Miss Pembroke, if I can be of the least use, freely command my services; believe me, I shall feel myself much gratified, my charming friend."

Adeliza thanked Sir Armine for his obliging offer, which she should avail herself of, should she be left in any unpleasant dilemma.

dilemma. At present she was much perplexed, as she had always understood that the house in question was the property of her late father. This, however, could be only surmise, for nothing certain was known.

It was thought advisable that she should go over to the house the day following, and minutely examine every paper, in hopes that something respecting that, and other family concerns, might be discovered; for the Countess observed that, some time back, Mrs. Pembroke had hinted to her, that she would acquaint her with some domestic circumstances, that would elucidate the mystery at that time appearing to envelope them. This communication had been put off from time to time, till the Countess had almost forgotten that such a thing had ever been mentioned; and death
had

had now cruelly sealed the lips of her who alone could give this information. The account so far given by Lady Raby, equally interested and agitated Adeliza, and the next morning she proposed making the search. The gentlemen offered to accompany her ; but this she declined.

CHAP. VII.

Oh thou mysterious Pow'r! who hast involv'd
Thy wise decrees in darkness, to perplex
The pride of human wisdom, to confound
The daring scrutiny, and prove the faith
Of thy presuming creatures—clear this doubt,
Teach me to trace this maze of Providence!

Mrs. H. Moss.

THE morning was cold and drizzly ; and as Adeliza walked from the carriage to the house, the snow and sleet beat against her fair face. With an aching heart she entered it, so late the scene of all her happiness,
her

her days of ease, and youthful pleasure ; where, on her return from the Castle, after only a single day's absence, she was welcomed with heartfelt joy by her indulgent parents.—Now, alas ! how mournful the reverse !—No friend now bade her welcome, no cheerful face greeted her return ; but at the door she was received by an old maid-servant, whose countenance, so dejected, struck chill to her heart.

She burst into tears, and hastily took the way to her father's study. She flung herself into a chair, from which she almost started, on recollecting that in that very chair her lamented father sat, when he gave her his last affecting commands relative to her dear mother. This remembrance brought back to her mind a chain of sad and dreary reflections. As she

found that dwelling upon these things would totally incapacitate her from going through the task she had imposed upon herself, she endeavoured to shake off melancholy retrospection, wiped away the tears that dimmed her eyes, heaved a deep sigh as she rose from her seat, and with sad steps left the room.

She called the servant, who had by her desire left her at the moment. She was an old and faithful creature, and much attached to her. From her, however, nothing could be learned more than she already knew herself. She had lived many years in the family, and had always understood that the house was her master's property; but no proof could arise from this vague account. She, with old Susan, left not a drawer or chest unsearched; but all was vain and ineffectual.

But,

But, upon taking a more deliberate view, it struck her, from the outward appearance of a cabinet in her father's rooms, that she could not have seen the whole inside of it. Once more, therefore, she went to examine it, and discovered that one part could be removed, being a distinct box of itself. This done, she found, on lifting it, that it was very heavy. The key she descried in a small recess near it; and, upon opening it, she discovered that it contained three hundred guineas. This was to Adeliza a most welcome sight; for, had she not unexpectedly met with this treasure, she must have been obliged, however unwilling, to apply to her friends at the Castle to discharge the claim of rent.

After minutely examining every part of the cabinet, and finding nothing else, she

had it taken, with the treasure found in it, to her own room. This being finished, it was next to be determined what was to be done with the furniture. To think of keeping the house, let her wishes impel her ever so, was impossible under her present circumstances. The plate (of which there was not much, and that totally without any ornament, arms, or crest), was carefully packed up, to remain in that state till her brother should return to England; and the house being large, she flattered herself she should have little difficulty in obtaining leave for the furniture to remain there till her affairs could be arranged.

She then stepped into the carriage, which was waiting for her, and soon reached the Castle. On entering, she was told by the servants that the family had dined from home, and were not expected till late.

e. She went into the drawing-room; d fearing to indulge in gloomy reflections on the past, she took a pencil from her pocket-book, and wrote, as her feelings dictated, this address to Hope.

Vain phantom, Hope! life's pleasing cheat;
Thou lovely flatt'rer of the mind!
Still hush my fears, my woes defeat—
Be to thy sorrowing vot'ry kind.

Hail, ever young and ever gay!
My troubled thoughts to comfort lead;
Chase, quickly chase, my doubts away,
And bid each anxious care recede.

Shew to my aching heart a close
Of all I dread—of all I want;
'Tis thou canst triumph o'er my foes,
'Tis thou canst ev'ry blessing grant!

In the act of folding these lines together, she was startled by the unexpected appearance of Sir Armine Temple.

“I thought,” said she, “you were of the party that are spending the day from home, Sir Armine.”

“It was,” he replied, “a ceremonious one, and I had no inclination to join them; but I had a still stronger inducement to remain at home to-day. Need I say it was the pleasing hope of enjoying an hour or two’s uninterrupted conversation with you, charming Miss Pembroke?—’Tis now long since this delightful privilege was granted me; happy indeed were those days!”

“Oh Sir Armine!” said Adeliza, “recall not that time, which is connected so closely with so many agonizing reflections!—How changed is now the scene!—Then blessed

to



to the utmost with the tender protection of the best of parents, who are now, alas! the inhabitants of the cold and solitary tomb, my lacerated heart bleeds at the eventful change!"

"Pardon me, dearest Madam," said Sir Armine, in a mournful tone of voice, "if I have unthinkingly brought to your recollection such sorrowful deprivations!"

"And think you then, Sir Armine," continued she, "that the loss I have so recently sustained, is ever absent from my mind?—or that because I am not unceasingly and loudly lamenting my woes, I am insensible to them?—Tears, I think, may be styled the evaporation of grief; for when they flow profusely, sorrow is generally but of short duration:—mine, alas! is deep, and must be lasting!"

F 5

"Not,"

“Not,” exclaimed Sir Armine with fervour, “if you will place it in my power to brighten this gloomy prospect.—If the highest respect and adoration were ever united in one heart, that heart is mine!—Oh dearest, first of women! can you possibly be a stranger to the passion you have inspired? Could you see my heart, that would witness for me how deeply your image is engraven there—it would convince you with what ardour I love you!”

“Of the love,” replied she, “you say you feel for me, Sir Armine, I cannot pretend to judge; but to take it only in one point of view, it was too sudden to be lasting. You had scarcely been ten minutes in my company ere you declared you adored me. In this sort of love-making,



(pardon me if I style it common), there could be nothing very gratifying to a reflecting mind; but I will suppose that I might have flattered myself your good opinion was certainly to increase with your acquaintance, and I had been weak enough to part with my heart on that frail chance, should I not have been rightly punished for my vain credulity, had you never taken any farther notice of me?—Most undoubtedly I should, and that must have been followed with sincerely despising myself!”

“Thus far,” said Sir Armine, interrupting her, “I have suffered you to proceed; now do me the honour of hearing me in reply. Lightly as you treat my passion, and very cautiously as you seem inclined to give me credit for sincerity, still I cannot be offended. Hitherto, I confess, I have led a life of gaiety and extravagance;

(probably you may have heard of it). I have, it is true, been profuse myself, and suffered others to impose upon me; in passing, therefore, my single judgment upon the world, I have witnessed in it many more things to condemn than applaud.—I have severely suffered for my follies; and by that means have learned a lesson from experience, never to be erased from my memory. On many women I have bestowed a transient admiration, some (sorry am I to say the number was few) respected, and for more than one fancied I had a fixed regard. In this last calculation I find how widely I have been mistaken; for till your incomparable charms beamed upon me, steady affection for one woman was assuredly a stranger to my heart. To you, divine Adeliza, it was left to inspire sentiments unknown to me before;

before; and upon you alone rests my future happiness or misery."

"You distress me beyond measure, Sir Armine," said she, "by talking in this romantic style; let me entreat you to suffer this subject to drop, for indeed I never can——"

"Allow me to finish the sentence," hastily interrupted Sir Armine——"love you! Was it not so?"

"True," replied she.

"And the reason," continued Sir Armine, "because you fancy yourself attached to Captain Surrey?—Ah Miss Pembroke! that blush confirms the truth of what I before suspected. To suppose for a moment he can be insensible to your all-powerful charms, is not in nature; but think you that the haughty Earl, his father, will consent to his marrying you?—The
proud

proud and supercilious Lady Jane too—how cruelly insulting is her treatment of you!—while the timid Lady Catherine is afraid to speak to you, lest she, by so doing, should offend her sister.—Do not imagine I wish to wound your feelings—no, I trust you think not so harshly of me; I wish to open your eyes to the true situation you at present are in with respect to this family.”

“Alas!” said Adeliza, in a tone full of sadness, “I am indeed a friendless, destitute creature; and Heaven only knows what will become of me!”

“Consent then to become my wife!”

“Your wife, Sir Armine!—Oh no! never! never!—I have no heart to bestow! and surely Sir Armine Temple would not accept the hand without the heart!”

“Give

"Give but the hand," he earnestly added, "and I will trust to the heart following.—A mind so well regulated, a heart so pure as your's is, angelic Adeliza, must never be doubted.—Say but you will endeavour to love me, and I will patiently await the trial!"

"It would," said she, "be ungenerous in the extreme to think for an instant of attempting to deceive you, For you, Sir Armine, after the generous offer you have made me, I feel the greatest esteem—it demands my gratitude, but more I cannot bestow!—My heart, as you conjectured, has long been in the possession of another; nor do I even wish to have it restored to me.—If misery is to be my portion, I must submit; but never will I act perfidiously, and so deserve it!—Never can I think of purchasing riches with the loss of
my

my peace of mind!—May you enjoy happiness, Sir Armine, independent of me!”

“No woman,” vehemently replied he, “but yourself, can communicate that!—I shall only beg of you, too hasty Adeliza, to weigh in your mind the honourable proposal I have made, and then you may be more inclined to bless me.—I will not now hear one word in answer, nor longer intrude. God bless you! best, loveliest of women!—Remember me!”

Adeliza, left alone, reflected on all that had passed with wonder and grief; but although her spirits were agitated, and her mind harassed, her resolution was immoveably fixed to remain constant to Percy. What Sir Armine had insinuated respecting the Earl, was, she feared, likely to prove just; but still she wavered not—her heart was too firmly devoted to him,

to.

to think of happiness with any other man.

It was now very late, and the family not yet returned; she therefore retired to her bed: but sleep had fled her pillow, while busy thought almost distracted her. After a night spent in restless anxiety, she arose pale, dejected, and melancholy.

Descending to the breakfast-parlour, she met Sir Armine, who was shocked to see her look so ill; but infinitely more so when, in a grateful, but steady and determined manner, she finally declined his offer; at the same time softening her refusal as much as she consistently could, by saying that, to the latest hour of existence, she should retain a just sense of the proffered generosity of his conduct, and that, under any unpleasant or humiliating events that might hereafter befall her, she should,

with

with virtuous pride, reflect that Sir Armine Temple had thought her worthy the honour of becoming his wife.

Much was said on both sides before Sir Armine could suffer himself to believe that she had really made up her mind on this subject. All his rhetoric he found, to his sorrow, was ineffectually exerted to induce her to change her determination. His grief was proportioned to the extent of the happy reverse he had flattered himself with. He called her cruel, proud, and relentless; then in the same breath, entreated her forgiveness for his rash and impetuous language, declaring to the last, that he would not take her answer as decisive of his fate, but still trust to a future more candid judgment to operate a change in his favour.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Or if there were a sympathy in choice,
War, death, or sickness did lay siege to it,
Making it momentary as a sound,
Swift as a shadow, short as any dream,
Brief as the lightning in the colly'd night,
That in a spleen unfolds both heaven and earth,
And ere a man hath power to say—Behold!
The jaws of darkness do devour it up.

SHAKESPEARE.

LORD Raby now thought it necessary to declare his sentiments to his son respecting Adeliza. Nothing could equal the astonishment of Captain Surrey, but his distress.

He

He told his father that, so far from inclining to disobey him, he had always understood that he paid his addresses to Miss Pembroke with his full consent.

Lord Raby said, in reply, that he believed he had some years ago, when the subject was mentioned by his mother, not made any particular objections; but the reason was obvious—they were at that period such mere children, that a serious answer would have been equally unnecessary and ridiculous. On this ground he had acted in the manner he did; and he now trusted to the good sense of his son, to point out the propriety of entirely abandoning so imprudent a connection, and by so doing, give him no farther trouble upon the subject.

This, however, was a mode of conduct by no means approved by Captain Surrey.

His

His honour, independent of his affection, firmly bound him to Adeliza; nor could the wealth of worlds have tempted him to forsake her. This in the strongest language he represented to his father, who, indeed, could but in part controvert what his amiable son advanced; but still persisted in refusing his concurrence to the marriage.

At last, after a long and anxious debate, he drew from his father a sort of tacit consent, that, should he return from his next voyage (which was to be to the Cape of Good Hope) impressed with the same sentiments in her favour, he should not then continue to oppose what he was pleased to style his foolish wishes. With this conditional sanction was Captain Surrey obliged to appear satisfied; and, thanking his father, with a dejected countenance left his presence.

In

In this state of mind, Percy walked with folded arms up and down the drawing-room. Adeliza entered; and instantly perceiving that something unpleasant had occurred, in a voice of kind solicitude, demanded the cause of his too visible dejection. To repeat the conversation that now took place, might, though interesting in the extreme to themselves, be tedious to others; suffice it to say, that all a man could a second time declare, in whose breast dwelt every virtue, and whose heart and soul were devoted to one beloved object—all that the tenderest love could suggest, was now urged with warmth by Captain Surrey, to induce Adeliza to throw herself immediately upon his protection. But this she would by no means agree to, after what had passed between his father and himself.

“ Shall

“ Shall I,” said she, “ dear Percy, consent to make you unhappy ?—and surely did I now comply with your earnest wishes, you would be so. I have no scruple to repeat that you are the only one I ever did or can love ; nor will I, under any circumstances, be tempted to swerve from the promise that has once passed my lips, of being your’s alone.”

Percy answered her in terms expressive of the tenderest regard, and the infinite obligation she had laid him under ; and they parted at that time, each being more reconciled to their separation for the present.

The Castle now became to Adeliza uncomfortable in the extreme. The Countess, accustomed to watch and obey her Lord, involuntarily became less kind to her. This, with anguish, she quickly perceived,

perceived, and determined, as soon as possible, to take her leave. Lady Jane seldom or ever addressed her; and when she did condescend so far, it was in terms barely civil, if not supercilious. Lady Catherine was as obliging and attentive as ever, when alone; but in the presence of her mother or sister, hardly dared to open her mouth. Lord Richmond, with Sir Armine Temple, were gone to spend a week or two with their friends; the latter in the full hope of finding, on his return to the Castle, Adeliza more inclined to listen with favour to his suit.

Lord Raby was often from home; but whenever he returned, he seemed to have laid it down as an invariable rule, to treat her with the most pointed neglect. In short, all were totally altered in their treatment of her, excepting Percy and her
dear

dear little Margaret. The sweet child was never easy if from her side, but even this comfort was at length denied her ; for the moment she appeared where Margaret was, the child, under some pretence or other, was sent out of the room. This Percy, with indignant grief, observed: he could only regret the cruel and unpardonable conduct of others, without being able either to soften it, or the bitter feelings it excited, and the misery it inflicted.

Adeliza, wretched, could no longer submit to the marked neglect with which she was treated, and, therefore, with an aching heart, but composed countenance, she thanked Lady Raby for the hospitality she had received, and at the same time informed her Ladyship that she should take her leave of Raby Castle the following

morning, before the usual time of assembling.

The Countess coloured, and looked surprised, but did not offer a single argument; or express one wish to induce her to remain there any longer. The leave Adeliza took of Lady Jane was cold and formal; while the grief of Lady Catherine was so violent, as to throw her into hysterics. Adeliza could not bear the idea of bidding farewell to her darling Margaret; but, before she went to bed, softly stole into her room, and kissed and wept over the little rosy cherub, who lay smiling in its innocent sleep.

With streaming eyes, and a heart torn by disappointment and anguish, she threw herself upon her bed. Here she reflected on the forlorn and friendless state to which

she was now reduced. Where could she fly for relief?—To her own heart, for nothing *there* condemned her. She had uniformly acted uprightly, and, as far as her judgment directed, with honour, and simplicity of intention to all. Here, therefore, she met with no reproof.

Morning began to dawn ere she had once closed her aching eyes. She arose, and packed up her clothes; then putting on her hat and pelisse, she gave her trunk in charge to the housemaid, and took her solitary way to the mansion of her late dear and ever-lamented parents, formerly the scene of tranquil joy and domestic harmony, now how awfully changed! The retrospect brought tears of unfeigned grief to her eyes, and anguish intolerable to her heart.

As she hastened on, alone and unprotected, she was startled by the sound of approaching footsteps. Turning fearfully her head, she perceived nothing to alarm her—it was Percy. He looked pale and agitated. He gently upbraided her for so early leaving the Castle unattended, lamented the cruel treatment she had received from some part of his family, and besought her, as she valued her dying father's request, her revered mother's wishes, and his own happiness, to bless him with her hand; but this, as before, she firmly refused.

Percy reminded her that in that very path they now were treading, they had often pleasingly wandered, indulging in all the gay visions of cheering hope. This was now brought to her remembrance
with

with every persuasive argument that love could suggest ; but Adeliza's determination was fixed, and it bore honourable testimony to the greatness as well as goodness of her heart.

On reaching home, she was told that a gentleman had been there the preceding evening, who wished to see her upon business, and, finding her from home, was to call on that morning. Who the stranger could be, she had not the least guess, unless it was the person who had written to her about the house. This proved to be the case ; and she had a great deal of conversation with the lawyer (for such he was) in the presence of Percy.

All Adeliza's arguments to endeavour to convince him that the house was her father's property, were quickly and effectually silenced by Mr. Trap's shewing

eds that seemed to put it beyond
that her father had no title to this

At the same time, the account
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This, if her father really had
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Mr. Trap should be suffered, for
nt to remain where it was or

"I find," said Percy, contemptuously surveying this hero of the quill, "you know, Sir, how to make a bargain. You shall be satisfied on this head; and as we have now finished the business, shall wish you a good morning."

Mr. Trap, obsequiously bowing, retired.

Adeliza entreated Percy to return to the Castle. She thanked him for his friendly attention, and promised to allow him to see her the next morning. She wished to be left alone, that she might endeavour to think what plan it would be best next to pursue.

After his departure, as she sat gazing on the fire, it suddenly occurred to her, that writing to her old friend and governess, who was comfortably settled in town, might be attended with satisfactory consequences, or, at all events, could possibly

do no harm. Indeed, it appeared highly probable that she would shew her every civility in her power, as Captain and Mrs. Pembroke had liberally rewarded her for the attention paid to herself while under her care. She feared to think that, should this resource fail, she should be thrown quite unprotected on the world.

When Percy, according to promise, came the following morning, Adeliza communicated her plan to him; to which, indeed, he could make no objection, as he was not permitted to propose a better. Once more he endeavoured to persuade her to put herself under his protection. She silently shook her head; but with such expression, that Percy, heaving a deep sigh, declared he would no more press the subject.

She now sat down to write to Mrs.
Henley,

Henley, which, when finished, she gave Percy to read. In this letter she briefly related the distressing events that had befallen her, and the unpleasant situation consequent upon them ; that as she wished to be in town, begged Mrs. Henley would have the goodness to take her a lodging as near her own house as she conveniently could.

Three days were spent by her in the most uncomfortable state of suspense ; nor had she seen any of the Raby family excepting Percy, who visited her every day. On the fourth from that she had written to Mrs. Henley, came an answer, which she almost feared to open. She had, however, nothing to apprehend from the contents of this letter, which was written in a style the most respectful and affectionate. Mrs. Henley entreated to

have the pleasure of seeing her as soon as she could make it convenient ; begged she would not, for a moment, think of a lodging, but do her the honour of being with her till her affairs were arranged ; and that in this request she was joined by her husband, who would be proud, by any attention in his power, to repay in part that kindness she had uniformly received from Captain and Mrs. Pembroke.

Adeliza shed tears of joy over this comfortable letter. As she still held it in her hand, Percy, with Margaret, entered the room.

“ See, dearest Adeliza,” said he, “ I have brought you a little anxious visitor.”

Margaret flew into her arms, and kissed her with artless transport, while she affectionately pressed the lovely child to her heart. This scene deeply affected Percy.

Adeliza

Adeliza shewed him the letter just received, which, as it was agreeable to her wishes, was of course to him, though he could not help grieving at the certainty of soon losing her. He informed her that his mother and Lady Catherine proposed paying her a visit the next day.

“I believe,” said Percy, “my mother begins now to think she has not treated you as she ought to have done, and wishes in some measure to make up for it.”

This meeting she wished much to avoid, as it could not prove otherwise than unpleasant to all parties. She therefore was not sorry that she had so good an excuse for avoiding it, which was, that early in the morning, she should set off for town. Adeliza thought it would be, on every account, the best plan now to take leave of Percy. She sent an apology to his mother and

sister; and as it could answer no good purpose, requested he would not think of coming in the morning, as she proposed going early.

This request he said he would compromise, by her allowing him to spend that evening with her. This her heart would not suffer her to refuse. Sad were the parting adieus between Margaret and her favourite; nor could her brother, by any means but that of force, separate her from her dear Adeliza, who now busied herself in arranging every thing for her immediate departure.

This done, thinking it more respectful, she wrote a farewell note to Lady Raby; and to Lady Catherine a long letter, expressive of the tender affection and friendship which she always had, and ever should feel for her, the sweet companion of her youth;

youth; and concluded her letter by begging that she might have the comfort of sometimes hearing from her.

The time glided swiftly and almost imperceptibly away, as Percy and she conversed together. Things did not appear so desperate as they had done, upon being calmly talked over. Only one year at farthest, they flattered themselves, would intervene between them and happiness; and though even *that* appeared an age, yet, in the meantime, they must look forward with tranquillity and *hope*. In the hearts of the young and sanguine, many must be the evils, and grievous the disappointments experienced before that welcome and flattering inmate can be banished. Alas! how little do they apprehend the dangers that they are too often exposed to! Neither human wisdom nor
human

been expected, this amiable and in-
pair took leave of each other, the
without tears on Adeliza's side, a
regret on Percy's. Adeliza, per-
how much distressed he was, ende-
to smile; waving her hand as he w-
said—

“Fair thoughts and happy hour
you!”

CHAP. IX.

to make

Well-order'd home man's best delight,
And by submissive wisdom, modest skill,
With ev'ry gentle care, eluding art,
To raise the virtues, animate the bliss,
And sweeten all the toils of human life,
This be the female dignity and praise.

THOMSON:

THE morning proved fine, and Adeliza
performed her journey with ease and
safety; and by eight o'clock in the even-
g, found herself in the great city of
London. It was too dark for her to form
any

any idea of it, and she began to think she should never reach the place of her destination. She anticipated with pleasure the reception she should meet with, and by this means tranquillized her spirits. So far from looking forward despondingly, she cherished as much as possible the bright visions of hope.

After driving through many streets, the chaise stopped at the door of a genteel looking house, which upon enquiry proved to be the one she wanted. The door was opened by a servant in a handsome livery. Adeliza, dreading any mistake, would not alight, but sent up her name, and in the next minute was welcomed by Mrs. Henley herself, in terms of the warmest hospitality. Ten years had indeed made so wonderful an alteration in the person of our heroine, that

hat Mrs. Henley, had she not been prepared for her coming, could not have recognised her former amiable little pupil in the elegant female before her.

There was a cordiality in the manners of this genteel and friendly woman, that entirely did away every feeling like restraint or reserve from the timid mind of Adeliza. The room she was shewn into was furnished in a very handsome style; every thing, in short, conveying an idea of the taste as well as riches of the possessors. She looked around her with satisfaction and delight, inwardly rejoicing that her kind hostess was so comfortably settled.

“My husband,” said Mrs. Henley, “left it in charge to me, to make an apology to you, my dear Miss Pembroke, for his not being at home to receive you; but the fact is, he had an engagement of long standing

standing to dine in the city, which he could not well avoid. My little ones are all in bed; but to-morrow I shall have the pleasure of introducing all my treasure to you."

After having talked over family affairs, and Adeliza appearing much fatigued, Mrs. Henley, affectionately taking her hand, which she drew through her arm—

"Come," said she, "my dear Miss Pembroke, I shall now have the pleasure of conducting you to *your own room*. I see you are quite tired, and must, I am certain, wish to retire earlier than usual, after the journey you have taken to-day. I trust you will find your apartment a comfortable one; though I much fear you will not, at first at least, sleep well in this bustle, after the quiet of a country life."

Adeliza,

Adeliza, left alone, reflected with pleasure on the reception she had now met with, till, overpowered by the fatigues of the day, she soon sunk into the arms of sleep ; nor did she once awake till the sun darted his beams into the window of her chamber. She immediately arose, and hastily dressing herself, descended to the room she had been in the preceding evening, where she was again cordially welcomed by her friend, who was preparing breakfast, surrounded by five charming children, in whose rosy countenances were depicted health and infantine delight. Adeliza surveyed the joyous little group with looks of mingled pleasure and surprise.

“ What a charming family you have, my dear Mrs. Henley !” said she. “ How wonderful is the alteration a few years bring about !”

Mr.

Mr. Henley now entered the room. He was a genteel-looking young man, with an exceeding good countenance. The children flew to meet him, and fondly hung round him, while he respectfully and heartily welcomed Miss Pembroke. Breakfast finished, Mr. Henley took his leave, being obliged to attend his business in the city.

Mrs. Henley then shewed her friend over the house, which was large, convenient, and furnished throughout in an elegant and expensive style. Adeliza expressed the pleasure she felt in finding her thus comfortably settled.

"In truth," said Mrs. Henley, "my fair friend, I have the greatest reason in the world to be grateful for the blessings I so abundantly enjoy. Henley is the best of husbands, the most generous of men; sometimes,"

sometimes," continued she, smiling, "too much the latter; but we must allow him to be a little profuse, my dear Miss Pembroke; as he gets older, he will, I doubt not, become more careful: so that, as I am economical in my household management, I never hint a wish to Henley that he should abridge himself of any indulgence."

Her children, she went on to say, might all be styled under her own care; the two girls, indeed, she entirely educated herself—the boys, excepting the younger one, went to a day school.

"I keep but little company, and when I do, it is in compliance with my husband's wishes; and he being, from his business, necessarily much from home, I live a most quiet life. Sometimes, were it not for the amusement my children afford me, it might be deemed a dull one; but as long

as

as I have them, I never think of seeking out-door entertainments. You must, therefore, my dear Miss Pembroke, perceive from this account, how truly gratifying to me this kind visit of your's must prove. I could not have taken the liberty of requesting such a favour; but with avidity embraced it when offered me. All therefore now left for me to say is, that no endeavour on my part shall be wanting to render your stay with us as agreeable as I can possibly make it. I trust you intend to oblige us with your agreeable society for some time, or I shall feel much disappointed."

In language of affectionate gratitude, Adeliza declared the sense she entertained of her kindness and proffered hospitality. In the course of the day she wrote to Lady Catherine Surrey, as she had promised

Percy,

Percy, to let her know she had performed her journey without any accident. The more she saw of this amiable family, the more she found to regard and respect. Nothing could be more uniformly kind than the conduct of her new friends. She saw Mr. Henley but seldom ; but when he was at home, he always appeared in the highest spirits. The children were become warmly attached to her, and with pleasure she assisted their mother in the interesting task of instructing them.

Adeliza had been now a fortnight in town. The Henleys wished to persuade her to promise she would remain with them till she could hear from her brother, (to whom she had written immediately on the death of her parents) ; but to this she declined hastily consenting. She had twice written to Lady Catherine, who lamented

the absence of her friend, and sorrowfully the little Margreta. She further said that her brother Percy would be the bearer of her last wishes, as he had received orders to hold himself in readiness for war, and therefore off he must be in ten or a few days' time.

Before the time mentioned by Lady Catherine had elapsed, Captain Surrey arrived. He approached Adeliza with joy illuminating his fine face; nor was she less pleased. He brought a letter from Lady Catherine, and remembrances from the others. Percy had only a few days to remain in town, and a multiplicity of business in that short interval to transact. He was as much with Adeliza as he possibly could be, and each time these amiable young people met, the love on both sides was, if possible, increased. Captain Surrey could

could not help being satisfied with the present situation of his beloved; he had a great esteem for Mrs. Henley, and under her roof he knew she was safe, and, he flattered himself, would be comfortably settled. He therefore urged her to remain where she was, till he should return to claim her for his wife.

In the evening he returned with an expression of satisfaction in his countenance that rather surprised Adeliza. She enquired if any thing agreeable had happened since he left her in the morning.

“With you it rests,” said Percy, “to make it so, or otherwise.—Oh Adeliza! do not, I beseech you, refuse the request I shall now make!—Think that, by acceding to my wishes in this particular, you will in a great measure relieve my heart of its too heavy pressure; beguile me of my uneasy
VOL. I. H doubts,

He then told her that, after
in a state of mind, he could not
a thought suddenly came across
upon consideration, he determined
into execution. — "And now,"
he, putting a folded paper into
"dearest, best beloved of woman
this!"

Adeliza took the paper, and
eyes over the contents; she found
a promise of marriage, drawn up
by a lawyer, in failure of which,
forfeit his whole fortune. She then
while she read this generous pro

signed, and composedly laid it upon the fire.

"That," said she, pointing to the paper, which now blazed, "is the most proper place for it.—Could you," continued she, "dear Percy, for one moment suppose that I would consent to keep in my possession any such instrument as might hereafter oblige you to fulfil an engagement that your heart did not then deliberately assent to?—Oh no! far from me be such meanness of conduct. If, Percy, on your return from this long voyage, I should then find your regard diminished, (and love is eagle-eyed), believe me I should be the first to rejoice that I had left you at perfect liberty. On the contrary, if you return with the same sentiments in my favour, believe it Adeliza will remain unchanged!"

A long and interesting conversation ensued, in the course of which she promised to correspond with him. Their parting was distressing and affecting. Adeliza retired to her own room, and there silently indulged that grief she could not at present conquer.

In the morning she rose pale and dejected. Her friends proposed going to some place of public amusement; but this she at once declined, though grateful for the motive that induced them to make the proposal; and, unwilling to appear either dissatisfied or out of spirits, exerted herself, and in some degree succeeded in shaking off the melancholy that hung on her spirits.

Taking it altogether, nothing could be more truly agreeable than this family to Adeliza. Of an evening, after returning from business,

business, Mr. Henley, so far from being dull and fatigued, was invariably in excellent spirits; while the cheerful reception he met with from his attached wife, and the fond caresses of his children, could not fail of rendering *home*, as it always will do in such cases, the most delightful place in the world.

In the morning she rose early, and her friends proposed going to some place of public amusement; but she was once again obliged to decline, as she was not well enough to make the journey, and unwilling to appear in public, and out of spirits, and her degree of recovery was not such as to enable her to go.

On the 10th of the month, Mr. Henley, who was at the time in the city, was informed that a party of friends were about to visit him at the castle, and he accordingly wrote to them to come.

CHAP. X.

And deem them root of all disquietnesse,
 First got with guile, and then preserv'd with dread,
 And after spent with pride and lavishnesse,
 Leaving behind them grief and heaviness.
 Infinite mischiefs of them do arise,
 Strife and debate, bloodshed and bitterness,
 Outrageous wrong and hellish covetize,
 That noble hearts, as great dishonour, doth despise.

FABRY QUEEN.

THREE weeks had elapsed since Percy
 bade farewell to his beloved Adeliza; and
 during that time she had not received a
 single

single line from Lady Catherine Surrey, although she had herself written twice. This apparent neglect of her friend wounded her to the heart; for in no reasonable manner could she account for her long silence.

The Henleys abated not in the least of their attentive kindness, often repeating how much they thought themselves honoured by her visit, and gratified by her charming society. Adeliza seldom or ever went out, excepting into a small garden attached to the house, where she amused herself with the children. Of an evening she and Mrs. Henley read and worked together. She had heard three times from Percy. His letters were every thing her heart could wish, and she answered them with correspondent affection. But a fearful

gloom

gloom suddenly overcast this bright domestic scene. For several evenings successively, Mr. Henley had staid out unusually late, and on his returning, appeared in spirits that were visibly forced; there was evidently something that hung heavy on his mind. This Mrs. Henley did not notice to him; but to Adeliza, without reserve, expressed her uneasy doubts that all was not as it should be. The same idea had struck Adeliza; but she thought it would be cruel to say so, and therefore endeavoured to do away the fears that had taken strong hold of her amiable friend. As they continued in earnest conversation, the clock struck two. Mrs. Henley started, and turned still paler.

“Good God!” she exclaimed, “Henley is not yet returned!—I had no idea it could

could be so very late. Do my dear Miss Pembroke, go to bed; surely ~~have been~~ most selfish to keep you up thus long; but this I know my sweet friend will forgive!"

Adeliza would not, however, be prevailed upon to retire, but insisted on being allowed to remain with her till Mr. Henley returned; for she now began to dread that some disastrous event impended! To have left her friend under this impression, would have been unfeeling, and such Adeliza never was. Another hour had passed away, and still he came not; while his wife, extremely agitated, walked up and down the room, then stopped and listened, daring scarcely to breathe; then threw up the sash, and leaned out of the window, anxious to hear his well-known step.

"Oh!"

"Oh!" exclaimed she, clasping her hands in agony, "if it be as my fears too strongly forebode, and my unfortunate, in that case infatuated husband has again been led astray, then must ruin be inevitable!—My children, my darling children, what will then become of you!—Oh God! how active in tormenting is busy apprehensive imagination!—How doubled every pang that rends a *mother's* heart!"

Exhausted with the wildness of her terror, the unhappy wife sank into a chair, while Adeliza, with reason and firmness, urged her to be calm, for that she might (and such she trusted would prove the case) be now torturing herself with ideal evils. But all that she could advance, was unequal to the task of driving away the horrible impression now fixed on Mrs.

Henry's

Henley's mind. Raising her eyes to her friend's face with a look full of woe, while her articulation was deepened, and almost choked by the dreadful recollection, she said—

"Henley has gamed!"

Adeliza shuddered, nor could she now offer one word of consolation to her almost distracted friend. A violent knocking at the door convulsed both of them with terror. Adeliza first recovering herself, ran to the staircase, where she was met by Henley. He rushed past her, and flying up to his own room, attempted to lock the door; but this Adeliza, who had followed his distracted steps, prevented.

"Why," said he, "do you take upon you to thwart me in my own house?—Am I not master here?"

"True," replied she; "but, should I judge from your appearance, you are not in a state of mind to be trusted alone."

"Leave me, instantly, leave me," said he, frantically, "if you do not wish to witness a deed of desperation!"

He approached the chimney-piece, and snatched thence a pistol. Adeliza (who had before been told that it was always loaded) darted forward, and struck the dreadful instrument of death from his hand. It fell on a table, and instantly went off. Adeliza sunk on the floor, and the wretched young man, stooping to raise her, with dismay perceived blood upon her clothes. With his clenched fist he violently smote his forehead, while his whole frame seemed stiffened with horror. What a scene for the eyes of a wife to witness from eyes so holy and true!

With

With agony in her looks, Mrs. Henley gazed on the two objects that presented themselves to her sickened sight.—Her husband the pale image of despair, and her young and much-valued friend extended to all appearance lifeless on the floor, her clothes stained with blood, and the pistol lying by her side! Henley, pointing to her, exclaimed—
“I have murdered that angel, because she would have saved me from damnation!”
Adeliza opened her languid eyes, and faintly enquired—
“Where is her?” “Think,” continued she, “Oh think, wish man of your wife, your children!”
Mrs. Henley, revived by hearing her speak, knelt down beside her, while Henley, with frenzied eagerness, flew to procure

prompt surgical assistance. By the time he returned, she was so far recovered, as to be sensible to all around her; but Mr. Henley had with anguish discovered, that Adeliza had received a wound in the upper part of her arm, which still bled profusely. When Henley re-entered the room, she, while a faint smile passed across her face, extended her forgiving hand to him. He, overpowered by her generous conduct, burst into tears. She was raised from the floor, and laid upon the bed. The surgeon examined her wound, which was by no means dangerous; the bullet having done little more than just grazed her arm, though the wound occasioned by it, bled so copiously.

Having dressed it, he departed, leaving the wretched husband and wife watching by her, lest any unfavourable symptom should

should appear. Each brooded silently over their own distresses, fearing to disturb her, by recounting them to each other.

The cause of this agonizing scene was briefly as follows. George Hanley was the third son of a gentleman of considerable property, and by him was bound apprentice to a respectable merchant. The young man's pride revolted from business, as a pursuit beneath the dignity of his family. This erroneous idea was strengthened by a youth, who was his intimate friend and companion. George had more than once been led into shameful scrapes by him, and after a severe reprimand from his indulgent father, pardoned.

In this manner passed the time of his apprenticeship, until, one day, his father informed him that he had set apart two thousand

thousand pounds, which he intended for him to begin the world with; at the same time adding, he should now look out for a partner, who understood more of business than he did. The young man was grateful for his father's goodness, and promised to be more attentive to what his father advised, as his own interest. All this was of course, communicated to his friend Gimpholt, who, after (as he usually did) raising some objections, appeared to think the plan upon the whole not a bad one.

In the course of a few days, this kind friend called upon young Hensley. He told him that he had been fortunate enough to hear of a person in business, exactly to a nicety the man for him. The only thing against this was, that the merchant, instead of two thousand pounds, required three to

be

be sunk. The advantages that were undoubtedly to accrue from this connexion, were by Campbell painted in such tempting colours, that George felt quite anxious to be settled so agreeably. His proposed going down stairs to his father, in hopes of being able to persuade him to advance the additional sum required, but from this he was dissuaded by the other, as, from his father's disposition, he supposed that to get the money would be a thing impracticable.

In a fatal moment the credulous young man was induced to try his luck at the gaming-table. Fortune smiled upon his first essay, and he returned home three hundred pounds in pocket. With gratitude he poured out his thanks to his friend for the fortunate advice he had so critically given him, and again did he resolve

resolved to tempt his fate. In this second trial the capricious dame entirely forsook him, and he was stripped of every guinea in the world he could call his own.

In a state of mind little short of desperation, he reached home, cutting his own felly, and that of the officious Campbell; but his raving could only exhaust him, not restore his lost fortune. For some time his father refused to see him, still touched by the contrition and remorse expressed by his son for the misconduct he had been guilty of; he took him to his arms, forgave him, and affectionately assured him that the subject of their late distress should never be mentioned.

George, whose heart was really good, was sensibly moved by this kind forgiveness, and vowed to deserve the future approbation of his excellent parent.

The

The person who had been so highly spoken of, was now enquired about, and, answering the report given of him, and the agreement closed to take young Henley, this was all comfortably settled; at the same time, George was informed that the money now advanced on his account, was all he was ever to expect.

Every thing went on prosperously, and meeting with Miss Brown, he found she was exactly the woman calculated to make him happy. He married her, and made an excellent husband. His father had been dead some time, and his brothers, one in the law, the other in the army, jealous of the kindness extended by their father to his prodigal son, as they called him, took not the slightest notice of him. But this gave George little concern, being perfectly happy in the affection of his amiable wife.

During

During this period, his old crony had been absent from town, and had very lately returned; and it was since his arrival, that Mrs. Henley had perceived the alarming alteration in her husband. Thus painfully prepared, it was no wonder that her fears were awakened. Now indeed it proved that her worst apprehensions were terribly verified; for, owing to the state of public affairs, together with the dishonesty of his partner, business began to fail. Then it was that his evil genius, in the form of Campbell, threw himself in his way, once more to draw him on to ruin.

To mention the arguments made use of by this bad man, might only be putting the like train of seduction into the hands of other weak and wicked pretended friends; suffice it to say, that in an evil hour, Henley consented once more to tempt

tempt his fate, which left him without one shilling to keep his wretched family from absolute beggary. This the misled and unhappy husband confessed to his wife and Adeliza, and farther declared that, stung with remorse, he had rashly and impiously resolved to put a termination to his self-reproaches and his miserable existence together, had not the interposing arm of an angel prevented this deed of desperation!

In spite of the very acute pain that Adeliza suffered, she secretly rejoiced, as it served in some degree to divert the mind of her friend from dwelling too intently on her own distress. Mrs. Henley never made use of one reproachful word to her husband; for that she knew would only irritate the wound, not heal it. She endeavoured as much as possible to prepare

her

her mind, so as to be able to bear with fortitude whatever might further befall her.

Although Henley was too sensible that he had lost all he possessed, even the house he lived in, still he could not bring himself to think so harshly of human nature, as to suppose his friend would take the full advantage which fortune had given him. Mistaken man! His wife, who did not by any means think so favourably of Campbell, made up her mind to meet with calmness the worst. And well it was she did so, for by twelve o'clock the next day, they had an execution in the house.

Adeliza, who had been persuaded to keep in bed, hearing an unusual bustle below, enquired of her little companion and handy nurse, Lucy, what was the matter. The child did not know, but went down stairs to ask. She returned

with tears trembling in her bright eyes, saying—

"I fear, Miss Pembroke, those sad black-looking men are quarrelling with papa; for dear mamma is in the drawing-room crying, and could not speak to me."

Adeliza, alarmed by the account given by the child, immediately arose, and, with no small difficulty getting on her clothes, went down stairs. On going into the drawing-room, she perceived that all Lucy had said, was correct. The men she had spoken of, were bailiffs, who had already entered on their unpitying office. To attempt putting a stop to this cruel proceeding, was totally useless;—as they had no security to give, the law must take its course. As to Mr. Henley, his spirits, usually so good, had now entirely forsaken him. He sat the image of grief and remorse,

remorse, his head resting on his hand, while his wife was busily employed in packing up her own and her children's clothes.

When Adeliza, leaning upon the little Lucy, came into the room, both Henley and his wife started, and gently reproved her for leaving her chamber. The scene that ensued, was affecting in the extreme. The contrition and humble acknowledgments of Henley, with the resignation and tears of his wife, were almost too much for her weakened spirits to bear. She struggled to repress her own feelings, that, by her example, she might encourage her drooping friends. She declared that, go where they would, let their circumstances be ever so distressing, as long as her presence could be of the most trifling service, she would never leave them.

After

After a long and, to all parties, an agitating conversation, it was settled that Mr. Lenley should go out in search of a small furnished lodging, for the present, to receive his family, and for a time sufferings to take their own course.

CHAP. XI.

Slow as life glides in gentle gale
Pretended friendship waits on power,
But early quits the borrow'd veil,
When adverse fortune shifts the sail,
And hastens to devour.

TRANSLATION.

IT was evening before Mr. Henley returned; and when he did, it was in the worst spirits imaginable, as he had learned that his partner had early that morning absconded, and had taken with him all that could be converted into cash. This

was indeed a dreadful stroke, for they were left, in fact, without the means of daily subsistence. With regard to a lodging, he had been unsuccessful; for what, from their appearance, might have answered, were exorbitantly high rented; others, that might have suited in point of rent, were such miserable looking places, that he could not brook the idea of thus disposing of his family. What was therefore to be done, was difficult to decide. At length Adeliza proposed going, the next morning, with Mrs. Henley; as she said she was sure she was equal to this undertaking, provided they went in a coach, and kept her arm in a sling. In the meantime Mr. Henley was to go into the city among his friends, and, if possible, endeavour to prevent the total ruin of his family.

After some hours spent in fruitless search by Adeliza and Mrs. Henley, the former discovered a bill upon a house, which, from the outward appearance of it, did not threaten to be too expensive. Pulling the check-string, the coach stopped, and the party alighted. On knocking at the door, it was opened by a clean-looking elderly woman, who civilly begged them to walk in.

Upon enquiry, they found that she had a second floor to let, consisting of three rooms; that the first floor she occupied herself, and in the upper one lived an old gentleman. She added that he was extremely quiet, and never was visited by any one. The apartments now shewn, were two bed-rooms, and a small sitting one; the furniture clean, but this was its only recommendation,

recommendation, and the terms fifteen shillings a week.

Pleased with the civil deportment of the woman of the house, they agreed to engage the lodging. This business settled, the friends returned home, exhausted and weary. There they found several people waiting for the payment of small bills; the disastrous events that had taken place in the family, having already transpired.

Here was a fresh source of uneasiness; for Mr. Henley was not yet returned from the city, and Mrs. Henley could not satisfy their various demands: but this difficulty was soon obviated by Adeliza, who immediately (after having taken the liberty of examining the accounts, and finding the whole debts did not exceed forty pounds) went up stairs, and brought down the money; and, in discharging these

clamorous people, and thereby relieving a friend, felt more real satisfaction than she had ever before experienced.

Extremely fatigued by the events of the day, Adeliza, without much difficulty, was persuaded to lie down. Mr. Henley returned in rather better spirits. He had seen some friends, who flattered him that, in a very short time, his affairs would come round, but for the present he was advised to let things take their own course; at least, till the extent of the mischief done by his dishonest partner, could be exactly ascertained, which must, at the shortest time, take up a month, if not two.

“And during this lingering suspense,” said Henley with anguish, “my family may starve!—Oh heavens! what a wretch am I!—unworthy the sacred title of husband or father!—Before to-morrow morning,”
continued

continued he, "every person to whom I am in the least indebted, will, I doubt not, surround my doors, and clamorously demand the very trifle I owe, but which I cannot pay!"

"That," replied his wife, "they have already done, and are all *discharged* by that angel in human form, Miss Pembroke!"

The gratitude and surprise of the unfortunate young man were too great for utterance, and swelled his heart almost to bursting; while he solemnly took Heaven to witness, that no temptation should again induce him to behave in the same humiliating and criminal manner—flattered first, and betrayed afterwards. No! his life should be spent in endeavouring to prove a just sense of the patience and magnanimity of his dear injured wife, and the

high opinion he entertained of the generosity and noble conduct of her inestimable friend, Miss Pembroke.

On the day proposed, Mr. and Mrs. Henley, with Adeliza and the children, got into a hackney-coach, which soon conveyed them to their new lodging. As they went up stairs, Henley, in sorrowful accents, said to Adeliza—

“Oh Miss Pembroke! is this a fit place for you!”

Mrs. Henley, turning to her friend and her husband, attempted to smile; but, failing in the effort, burst into tears.

“Indeed,” said Adeliza, “I must scold you, if you are so naughty. I declare I never thought you proud till to-day.”

This, said in a tone of pleasantry, had the desired effect of dissipating the gloom that hung on every countenance. The children

children were quite delighted with the change, and, in spite of affliction, made their parents smile at their ridiculous remarks upon the pictures that were intended as ornaments to the room. The maid-servant, who had lived with Mrs. Henley from the birth of her eldest child, and was a faithful good creature, now came in, and with her brought porters with the rest of their things, that were now their all, together with Adeliza's trunks. It remained to be settled how they were to sleep. This was managed by a bureau-bed being brought into the sitting-room, which Adeliza took possession of.

As soon as day began to dawn, she arose. Her arm had been extremely painful during the night; and, wearied with tossing about, she sought for ease in change. Softly she opened the window-shutter,

fearful of awaking the sleeping children in the next room; but nothing refreshing was to be seen without, the window looking into a narrow dirty street, nor any thing human stirring, but now and then the shrill pipe and shuffling step of a miserable little chimney-sweeper.

About seven o'clock, some one tapped at the room-door. She opened it, and found it was the servant of the house, who was come, she said, to do out the room, if it would not disturb her. Adeliza desired her to do as she pleased. The girl began making such a dust, that she, who had no idea of being suffocated, enquired of her, if there was no room where she might remain till she had prepared this. The girl answered—

“ La! yes, Miss, to be sure, if you likes, you may go up stairs, and there mayhap
you

you will like to look out at the gardens."

This remove she gladly accepted, and the girl civilly shewed her the way. In the room she now was, stood a small wooden table, an old worm-eaten arm-chair, no grate or fire-irons, but in their place a small tin tea-kettle, a saucepan, a tinder-box, and a few matches. Adeliza had ample time to examine all this, as the gardens the maid had spoken of, were only little paved courts, with here and there dispersed, a bunch of smoke-dried thyme, or sweet marjoram.

Not much captivated by this fabled cheering prospect, she seated herself in the high-backed chair, though by no means assured that it would not give way with her. Sinking into a train of reflections, she leaned upon the arms of it, and closed

her eyes, and in a moment busy imagination had transported her to the happy dwelling of her parents, then to Raby Castle, and next to sea. She sighed, and breathed a prayer for the safety of him, who, above all on earth, was left for her to love. Then again her beloved parents recurred to her thoughts, and the recollection brought tears to her eyes. She mourned deeply, and was preparing to wipe away the tears that almost blinded her, when her attention was arrested by the sight of a figure that now stood opposite to her, and appeared to examine her with fixed and scrutinizing eyes, not unmixed with fear. Adeliza's hand, half raised, was still in the same position. She did not attempt to move, but with some degree of trepidation, gazed on the object before her.

He (for it was a man) was tall, and thin

as a skeleton ; his small dark eyes sunk deep between two high-projecting cheek bones, over which the yellow skin hardly stretched. On his head he wore a scarlet nightcap, and round it was a piece of fur, that looked as if it had been stolen by some mischievous boy, from the starved back of an unfortunate cat. The other part of his dress was an old scarlet flannel gown, which reached to his heels ; this was confined round the waist with a leathern belt, in which was stuck a pistol. His hands were long and scraggy, and he now held both as a shade above his eyes, as if the more minutely to examine the sweet object in contrast. —Adeliza arose.

“ I fear,” said she, “ I am an intruder.”

The figure shrunk back against the wainscot, and groaned heavily. She approached him.

“ Have

"Have I, Sir, without intending it, alarmed you?"

"*Who* is it that asks the question?" said the figure, at the same time laying his hand instinctively on the pistol he carried in his belt.

"Be composed," said Adeliza, smiling at the alarm visible in his withered face; "I mean no harm, and will instantly leave you."

"Not," replied he earnestly, "till you have satisfied me who you are, and wherefore you came here."

She told her name, and added that she was with some friends, who had taken the second floor. She also mentioned the reason of her being in that room; at the same time again making an apology for the intrusion she had been guilty of.

"No, no, child," said the old man, who
had

had now in some degree recovered himself, "what you say, may be true—I dare say it is. Good-by to you; perhaps we may meet again, and hereafter be better acquainted."

Wishing him good morning, Adeliza went down stairs. She found her friends assembled in their room, and to them recounted her strange adventure. The curiosity of the Henleys was strongly excited by her relation, and the mistress of the house coming in, and hoping they had been quite comfortable. They enquired of her who her lodger above stairs was.

The account she gave, was this :—that it was twelve years since he first came to her ; that he paid a very trifle for his lodging, as the two rooms he occupied, were unfurnished ; that he never had a single human creature

creature coming after him; he paid regularly as the week came round, and never gave the least trouble, for that, during the twelve years he had resided there, he had never once had his room swept; that he was very stingy, for that he lived as sparingly as possible, never drinking any thing but water; that the only thing he ever noticed, was a cat, which he kept till the poor animal was actually starved to death; after it was dead, he took off its skin, which he wore round his cap for the sake of its warmth, as he never, let the weather be ever so severe, kept a fire in his room. She supposed he must be rich, and that the inner room, she believed, contained his money, as she had never seen the inside of it since he came there. This she the more believed, as he always carried a pistol about him. Who he was, she could

could not tell ; for he was known to her by no other name than that of *the gentleman*.

As soon as breakfast was over, Mr. Henley went from home, in order, if possible, to put his affairs into some sort of train, and also to borrow a little money. This he flattered himself he should not find the smallest difficulty in doing, as he had many *opulent friends*. Mrs. Henley, having sent the children out to take a walk, sat some time musing. At length breaking silence—

“ I have been thinking,” said she, “ my dear Miss Pembroke, that, supposing my husband fail in his application for money, (and, God help us! I think that not at all unlikely); what could then be done.”

“ Would to Heaven,” replied Adeliza, with earnestness, “ I had the power of assisting

assisting you, my dear friend!—but, alas! my means are but limited. Need I say what pleasure it will give me, if you will accept a part of the little left?”

“My amiable Miss Pembroke, you have already done too much—I really feel myself oppressed by your goodness; but a plan has just struck me, that I think might answer. I had it in my power, some time back, to be of essential service to a person, who was, at that time, in great distress, but is now settled in the first business in town, as a milliner and fancy-dress maker. Now, I think, by applying to her, I could get some work that might prove lucrative; at least, it would, by assiduous employment, prevent my thinking too deeply on unpleasant subjects.”

Adeliza thought the plan was prudent
and

and promising, and cheerfully engaged to give her all the assistance in her power in this little labour of love. They then settled it to go to Madame Mouche's the next morning.

Mr. Henley, as his wife predicted, had been unsuccessful in all his applications. One friend was most extremely sorry—it was particularly unlucky, but he had, that very morning, paid away all his ready cash; but any other time he should be most happy to assist him. The other applications were equally fruitless, and Henley returned home, out of humour with all the time-serving world.

They had seen nothing of the old gentleman, although they had often been close to his quarters, as the landlady had given them the use of a garret, where they put their trunks.

On

On the fourth day of their residence in this lodging, Adeliza going up stairs, met, at his room-door, the old gentleman. He courteously bade her good morning, and asked her to walk in to his apartment. She, wishing to be a little better acquainted with so singular a character, accepted his invitation, and was ushered into his inner room. This was an unexpected favour, and Adeliza wondered what had procured her such distinguished honour.

“For these twelve long years,” said her conductor, “I have been the sole inhabitant of this room, nor has a human foot once crossed the threshold of this door!—No, no, I have taken care to prevent that. I too well know the wickedness and deceit of the world; I have cause to detest it, and from my soul I do so!”

“Alas!”

“Alas!” replied Adeliza, as she heaved a deep sigh, “it is indeed a sad place; I have little cause to think well of it either!”

“Ah! say you so!” said he, earnestly, “you so young, so lovely!—Declare that you detest the world, and I adopt you as the chosen child of my heart!”

“What I have already declared,” replied she, timidly, “must be the effect of youthful impatience—not, I hope, settled conviction; and, were I to repeat that I detest it, you might rightly accuse me both of presumption and duplicity.—Oh yes!” continued she, raising her eyes suffused with tears, and in a tone of pleasing recollection, “there are in the world, bad as it is, some that I revere and love!”

“Amiable child of simplicity!” said the old gentleman, “I like thy interesting sincerity!”

with her and her friends, who were
equally happy as herself to see him.

CHAP. XII.

To rise at noon, sit alipshod and undrest,
To read the news, or fiddle, as seems best,
Till half the world comes knocking at his door,
To fill the dull vacuity till four;
And just when evening turns the blue vault grey,
To spend two hours—in dressing for the day.

THE morning was fine, when Adeliza with Mrs. Henley began their walk to Madame Mouche's, whose house they reached about one o'clock. She was a civil little Frenchwoman, and most prodigiously polite. With Adeliza she seemed
wonderfully

wonderfully struck, and paid her many compliments on the beauty of her person; at the same time endeavouring to tempt her to buy something. Having persuaded her to try on a cap, she exclaimed, in affected rapture—

“ *C'est une beauté parfaite !* ”

Mrs. Henley smiled, and Adeliza, blushing, laid down the help to perfection. Madame Mouche was, by Mrs. Henley, informed of the true cause of this visit. She readily promised to send them employment whenever she should have it in her power; but qualified it by adding that times were hard, and the ladies obliged to be so very careful, that her business was almost ruined:—however, as the birth-day approached, she did not doubt but she should have it in her power to serve them in part.

Mrs.

Mrs. Henley could not help feeling disappointed, as she fancied that she had only to make up her mind to apply for work, to get it immediately. She was now, however, convinced of the reverse; therefore, leaving her address with Madame Mouche, she, with a desponding heart, returned home. A week had not elapsed, before, there came, at eight o'clock one evening, a note from Madame Mouche, requesting immediately to see Mrs. Henley, as she had something for her to do, which, if she could undertake it, would be extremely profitable. What was to be done?—for the person who brought the note, added that if an immediate answer could not be then returned, the next morning would be too late.

Mrs. Henley had been so unwell all day, that she had not got up, and her husband

was not returned from the city ; but to lose this chance of gaining something profitable, they could by no means afford, their little stock of cash being almost expended.

“ Make no opposition, my dear friend,” said Adeliza to Mrs. Henley, “ for positively I will go. You shall not, upon any account, think of stirring out to-night. As for me, the walk will do me good. I have no fears, and I dare say Madame Mouche will send her servant home with me.”

Very unwillingly Mrs. Henley consented to accept this kind offer, giving her many affectionate charges to take care of herself. Adeliza put on a large bonnet, and, with the young woman who brought the note, began her anxious walk. Unaccustomed to be out at so late an hour, she hurried on, without

without exchanging a word with her companion. On turning the corner of a street, they were met by three young men, one of whom attempted to look under her bonnet; but she, still quickening her pace, soon left them behind. One of them called to her not to walk so fast, and, from his voice, she instantly recognised Sir Armine Temple. Her heart beat with violence; for not for worlds would she have had him seen her at that time alone in the streets of London; for the young person with her could hardly be styled any protection. She had, however, reached the end of her walk without being overtaken by them.

Madame Mouche shewed Adeliza the work she wished to have done. It was a rich and splendid dress for the daughter of a Duchess, who was just married to a

Spanish Marquis, in which she was to be presented at Court. The dress was white crape, on which was to be an embroidery in coloured silks, the pattern of which was elegant in the extreme. This was a sort of work in which Adeliza was a perfect adept; and she immediately, in Mrs. Henley's name, undertook to finish it, although she was only allowed three weeks for that purpose; but Adeliza was not to be intimidated by trifles, where friendship was concerned, therefore promised it should be ready by the time required.

She reached home in safety, and received the grateful thanks of the Henleys for her ready kindness. The work went on briskly and beautifully, while their fellow-lodger, the old gentleman, sat by them often, admiring their taste, ingenuity, and diligence. They found him well informed,
and

and very entertaining, though extremely odd.

Nothing he had met with for many years, he said, had pleased him so much as Adeliza's steady industry; remarking that when he kept house, had he been fortunate enough to have had a person like her to manage it for him, he might at that day have been in a comfortable habitation of his own, instead of the miserable lodging he was now obliged to be satisfied with.

"The extravagance and dishonesty of my domestics were such," continued he, "that to prevent, I may say, ruin, I was obliged at once to give up housekeeping. To convince you, my young friends, that what I say, is not idle complaint, I will just shew you a list of Delft ware broken in my house in the space of one year; for you

x 3 must

must know that I found it absolutely necessary to keep an accurate account of every thing myself; so that, by setting down the damage done, and by whom, I could settle wages accordingly."

On the day following, the old gentleman brought down the promised list, which afforded no small amusement to the ladies after he had left them.

"Come," said Adeliza, "you, my dear friend, shall, as a lesson, read it out while I go on with my work."

Mrs. Henley began.

List of Delft Ware and Sundries, broke and destroyed from March — to the March following.

March.	One salad plate	} Ann Robinson, the cook.
April.	One ditto	
	One half-pint mug	} Billy.
	One dinner plate	

One

One butter-boat, 2d size..	The cook.
One white tea-cup	Betty.
One quart bason	} The cook.
One meat plate	
One small oil canet	Bob.
Nose off the other 2d size butter-boat	} The cook.
One water pitcher	
One pint mug	} George.
Four wine glasses	
One beer pitcher	} All done by the cook, by pulling the tray after her, when she fell down stairs.
One meat plate	
Two pint mugs	
One half-pint ditto	
One ditto, nicked	
One ditto cracked	} Betty.
One small butter-boat, the handle off	
One salad plate	Missing.
One brown pie-dish	Pastry-cook.
One wine square	Missing.
One half-pint mug	} Mary Shearman, the Charwoman.
One soup-plate, a bit out of the rim of it	
	} The cook.

Both ladies laughed immoderately at this lamentable account of chipped dishes and broken-nosed butter-boats; at the same time pitying the extreme parsimony of a man, who could present this as a dreadful cause for giving up housekeeping.

Mr. Henley was now necessarily much from home, busily employed in attempting to arrange his affairs. Mrs. Henley and Adeliza worked at the dress with unwearied assiduity, never allowing themselves the least respite. The former, unused to such constant employment, she could not long support it, and at length became so exhausted, that she was frequently obliged to lie down; while Adeliza, who would not suffer herself to be overcome, worked on till she lost both colour and appetite. Her reflections were by no means agreeable.

It

It was long since she had heard from Percy. To be forgotten by him was so completely disheartening, that she durst not trust herself to think of it. The picture, which he had given her a short time previous to his departure, she made her constant companion; and many a tender tear she shed over the beloved resemblance of the man she regarded most on earth, while of the family at Raby Castle she knew nothing. Mortified by their neglect, she tried to drive away obtruding thought, by applying the more intently to her needle.

In the time allowed by Madame Mouche, the dress was finished; but Mrs. Henley, afraid of being confined every hour, found herself unequal to taking it home. Adeliza by no means liked the office; yet she, out of pure benevolence, undertook

it. Taking a coach, she reached Madame Mouche's about three o'clock. On entering, she saw the exhibition-room filled with company. Perceiving one lady fitting on a pair of corsetts, Adeliza involuntarily shrunk back; but the little milliner calling to her to walk in, she complied. The dress, carefully pinned up, she laid upon the table, and stood modestly admiring the many beautiful things exposed for sale, silently wondering at the loud, not to say coarse remarks made upon them by some females, who tossed them about with very little ceremony.

One of the ladies, observing Adeliza's parcel, hastily ran to unpin it, exclaiming—

"Oh Lord! I am dying with curiosity to have a peep here!"

Madame,

Madame, with the utmost *sang froid*, removed the parcel into another room, saying that it was not to be seen by any body, as "it was for one very great lady, who desired it might not be exposed;" and civilly desiring Adeliza to be seated, said she would speak to her in a few minutes.

The ladies, whom opposition had rendered even more curious, vociferously declared they would not be disappointed, till a beau, who had been surveying Adeliza, to her great confusion, mixed with indignation, through a glass, and had not as yet uttered one syllable, said, in an affected drawl—

"Why, on my soul, Charlotte, it is cursedly ridiculous in you to make such a confounded uproar; I vow it has almost deafened me!"

"Good God!" replied the gentle lady addressed, "your Grace is so terribly nervous, there is no such thing as speaking louder than a whisper when you are by."

This sparring conversation was put an end to by the entrance of a lady, who was welcomed by both parties with the utmost seeming cordiality.

"My sweetest Lady Charlotte," exclaimed she, "I am so delighted to see you!—I trust you were not fatigued by dancing so late last night?"

"Oh no, my dear creature!" replied her Ladyship, "I was not; but that odious wretch, Sir John, he did so pester me, I could not, absolutely I could not, 'pon my honour, shake the creature off. I would have given kingdoms to have changed partners with Lady Julia; I tried all I could, but it would
not

not do. What a divine fellow the Duke is!—Oh, I assure you 'tis no laughing matter, for positively I am in love with him. But do tell me, dear Mrs. Grimalkin, did you see his buckles?—Oh mercy! they were *charmante*! I do *dote* upon his buckles!"

"What an agreeable rattling creature you are!" said the lady, smiling affectedly. "Well, I assure you, I was quite fatigued by the time I got home; but you know I am a strange unfashionable creature; home is my dear delight; when absent, I do so languish to be with my sweet little girl; time can be so much more profitably employed there, than in gadding abroad in search of idle amusements. One moment of precious time gone by, can never be recalled."

"I am certain," said the beau, who still lolled against the table, his glass to his eye, continuing his survey of Adeliza, "that no time is so unprofitably employed as that wasted in tossing up and down these pretty works of ingenuity, at the same time abusing them."

"Your Grace's ideas are perfectly consonant with mine," returned Mrs. Grimalkin, every feature screwed up with an accommodating grin, that a Duke had condescended to seem to join in her opinion.

"For my part," continued he, "I vastly prefer the works of nature, particularly that most beautiful part of the creation called *woman*."

The lady, taking this as a compliment intended for herself, curtsied in token of delighted approbation.

"Nay,"

"Nay," said his Grace, smiling at the mistake, "I alluded just now to that peerless damsel, who has modestly retired there," pointing with his glass to the background.

Mrs. Grimalkin directed her eyes to that part of the room, where the elegant form of Adeliza met her view. With a disappointed toss, she rudely exclaimed—

"She is not ugly, but quite a vulgar florid creature."

His Grace, with a significant shrug, answered—

"She is an angel, by all that's charming!" and in a lower tone of voice, aside—"Oh Lord, the envy of that sanctified devil of a woman!"

Mrs. Grimalkin and Lady Charlotte entered again into conversation. As they got to the door, Mrs. Grimalkin called out—

"Mouche,

"Mouche, do send me some *pale rouge* with my cap."

Adeliza was glad to see this disagreeable woman depart; for she felt herself excessively confused at being thus made the subject of rude observation. Her situation was unpleasant; but she could not extricate herself, while the blood mounted with redoubled force to her fair face; when the beau, still gazing at her, appeared to enjoy her evident distress. She was, however, soon relieved from this state of persecution, by the entrance of one of the most elegant women she had ever beheld, leaning on the arm of a handsome young man.

The charming couple advanced near to where Adeliza sat, and affectionately addressing an elderly lady, who had all this time been silently reading the newspaper,
and

and taking no farther notice of the foplings of both sexes that surrounded her; than by now and then raising her keen eyes, and darting them contemptuously on these insignificant beings; sometimes indeed casting a look of mingled pity and admiration on our beautiful heroine.

"I hope, my dearest mother," said the young lady, "we have not made you wait."

Madame Mouche, advancing, begged the ladies would have the goodness to walk into the other room, and the young woman who had brought the dress, would open it. Adeliza hoped the appellation of *young woman* was not applied to her; but was soon sensible of her mistake, by Madame desiring her to shew her work.

This was a situation to her new, unpleasant, and humiliating in the extreme; she, however,

however, rose from her seat with dignity, and proceeded as desired. Her hand trembled violently, and she could hardly unfold it. Her face turned pale as death, while, in low and tremulous accents, she entreated the ladies to excuse her awkwardness; and hastily drawing off her glove, discovered one of the finest turned arms in the world, white as the purest marble, and now almost as cold.

The ladies looked on each other in expressive silence. The elder one sighed from sympathy, while the younger one, in accents the most soothing, encouraged her to compose her visible agitation. The gentleman had politely withdrawn, that he might not add to her embarrassment. He was called by the ladies to come, and with them admire a piece of exquisite workmanship.

Adeliza

Adeliza could not fail of being highly flattered by the encomiums bestowed upon the work, the whole merit of which she generously ascribed to her friend at home. Reassured in a great measure by such kindness, she answered their questions with that promptitude, grace, and delicacy peculiar to herself. The ladies spoke aside to each other, and the elder one, turning to Adeliza, said—

“Will you, my dear young lady, have the goodness to let us know what we are indebted to you for this charming work?—No money, I am sure, can reward the genius and taste of the artist.”

“It is, Madam,” disinterestedly replied Adeliza, “in a great measure the work of a friend, to whom I was sincerely happy to give all the little assistance in my power. It is the first she has ever done;
for

for pay; the motive that induced her to undertake it, you will allow was a most commendable one—the support of a family, reduced almost to want by unexpected and very cruel circumstances. I am, Madam, no judge of the value of this work; but whatever you think an adequate price for it, must be so.”

The lady then presented her a note. Adeliza received it, a rosy red suffusing her whole ingenuous countenance. Casting her eyes upon it, and finding it was a note for twenty pounds, she burst into tears. The ladies looked with surprise at each other. Adeliza presently recovered herself, made an apology for her weakness, thanked them with calm dignity for their truly generous present, and, gracefully curtsying, wished them a good morning, and departed. They followed her

her with their eyes, and involuntarily exclaimed—

“What a heavenly creature !”

“I think her,” said the younger lady, “the most perfect being I ever beheld !— Do not you agree with me, Ferdinand ?”

“Not when you are present, my love,” replied he, affectionately smiling in her face, “though all must confess her very beautiful.”

They enquired of Madame Mouche who Adeliza was ; but on this head she could give them no farther information, than what had been explained by herself. This amiable and humane party returned home, impressed with the most favourable sentiments towards the interesting stranger.

CHAP. XIII.

Yet mischiefs study'd, discords did devise,
Sh' appear'd humble, but it was her pride;
Slow in her speech, in semblance sanctify'd;
Still when she spoke, she meant another way,
And when she curst, she only seem'd to pray.

OTWAY.

ADELIZA returned home in excellent spirits; her work had been commended, and well paid for. On the way she anticipated the pleasure her friend would receive from this supply, rendered doubly valuable from the extreme low state of their

their finances, being now reduced to a single guinea, without knowing whence the next was to come.

She was met at the door by the faithful Mary, Mrs. Henley's own servant, who gladly informed her that her mistress was brought to bed of a fine boy. Adeliza was thankful to hear that her friend was likely to do well, and instantly went to give her joy, and relate her success. The information she carried her, in a great degree contributed to her speedy recovery; but on the seventh day, the infant died! The tender mother wept over the lifeless remains of the little stranger, so soon released from a world of sorrow and care.

The day after the funeral, Mr. Henley received a letter from his eldest brother, which was as kind as unlooked for. In it he said he had lost a beloved wife and an
only

only child; and having accidentally heard of his brother's misfortunes, his heart upbraided him for his unkind neglect of him, which he was now solicitous to atone for, by entreating that he, his wife, and family would come to him in the country, and remain there till his affairs should wear a more favourable aspect.

This offer would have been instantly accepted, but for one obstacle, which it was thought it would be impossible to surmount, and the attempting of which struck both Mr. and Mrs. Henley as alike cruel and ungrateful; and that was Adeliza being a part of their family. They therefore agreed not to mention a word of the matter to her, but to write to the elder Henley, and thank him for his generous and most hospitable offer, but decline going to him for the present.

Mary,

Mary, who had accidentally overheard this conversation, and felt grieved that she could not go with the children into the country, could not refrain from going to Adeliza, and repeating every thing she had heard. She thanked Mary for the information, but desired her not to say one word to any one till she should give her leave. This she readily promised.

Adeliza put on her bonnet, and telling Mrs. Henley that, as she had been so good a nurse, she should now be idle, by going to take a walk, with a view to call on Madame Mouche. With little Lucy in her hand, who was delighted to go abroad with dear Miss Pembroke, she soon reached the limits of her ramble. Madame was from home, but, being expected every minute, soon made her appearance, and was rejoiced at the meeting, declaring

she was the very person of all others she wished to see ; for that she was that instant come from a lady, who wanted a person to take the charge of a young relation, about fourteen years old.

“ The very instant,” said the little Frenchwoman, “ I heard of it, I thought of you. It will,” continued she, “ if you can undertake it, be far more pleasant than working embroidery ; for the lady I speak of, is the best, the wisest, and most charitable lady in all London. Nay, I assure you, Miss, I only repeat what all the world allow, and if you get this situation, you may think yourself very fortunate.”

Adeliza replied that she might mention her to the lady, and that if she should wish to see her, she would wait upon her whenever it suited her convenience. This

Madame

Madame Mouche undertook to do without loss of time, and to let her know the result.

Adeliza returned home, with a heavy load removed from her heart; for now she had the pleasing prospect before her of getting herself provided for, at least for the present. This indeed was the motive of her visit to the milliner's, in which she had succeeded beyond her expectation. She said nothing of what had passed to Mrs. Henley, fearing she might still be disappointed.

In the evening came a note directed to Miss Pembroke. It was very civilly worded, desiring she would have the goodness to call at No. 28, Brook Street, on Mrs. Grimalkin, who wished to see her, on the recommendation of Madame Mouche. Adeliza desired Mary not to mention her

having received the note, nor to take any notice of her being out; but if enquired after, say that she left word she should soon be at home again.

By nine o'clock she was ready to begin her walk, ten being the hour appointed. Not once had she closed her eyes the whole night, ten thousand torturing sensations conspiring to drive away every thing like repose. The neglect of her friends, and in particular Percy, cut her to the soul; while the idea of becoming a dependant, mortified and depressed her. Now she had no other alternative. Did Percy still love her?—and Hope whispered this would prove the case. She knew his noble heart too well, to suppose he would think the less of her, for having submitted to endeavour to earn a living for herself; for no one friend did she now possess, to
whom

whom she could fly either for advice or succour.

Her spirits depressed, and her heart agitated, she began her solitary walk; and after much enquiry, reached the appointed place. She turned sick, and could hardly summon resolution enough to knock at the door. After a short struggle, she conquered these emotions, and hastily rapped. On enquiring for Mrs. Grimalkin, she was ushered up stairs by a very civil servant out of livery, who told her his Lady would wait upon her directly. Half an hour elapsed, and still no one made their appearance. The room which Adeliza was in, was one ostentatious display of work, books, drawings, globes, paper, pasteboard, pencils, oil colours, and all sorts of drawing materials, scattered about the room in studied irregularity, together

with a piano-forte, and a profusion of French and Italian music.

At length a step was heard coming down the stairs. Adeliza's heart palpitated, and presently the lady of the house entered, making many apologies for having kept her waiting so long. She begged Adeliza would be seated, as she could not think of speaking to her while she stood.

"This," thought she, "looks well; I might have spared myself some of the uneasiness, at least, that I have suffered."

Mrs. Grimalkin was rather below the middle size, very fair, with large prominent grey eyes, a sharp nose, even teeth, and beautiful light hair, which, even at this time in the morning, was well dressed. Her linen was as fine as possible, and her gown, for *reasons of state*, was made quite loose.

As

As Adeliza considered her, she recollected that she it was who had behaved rudely to her at Madame Mouche's. This was unpleasant, but she endeavoured to forget it. Mrs. Grimalkin's questions were innumerable, to all of which (though some appeared strange, not to say impertinent) Adeliza answered with candid simplicity. Having no reason to conceal any part of her history, she related the principal circumstances that had induced her to take this step. Mrs. Grimalkin enquired if she should have any objection to her writing to Lady Raby about her.

"Most undoubtedly I should," replied Adeliza hastily, and somewhat haughtily; "if, Madam, Mrs. Henley's testimony in my favour be not sufficient, I must beg leave at once to give up all thoughts of acceding to your proposal."

"Not quite that neither," replied Mrs. Grimalkin; "I shall myself call on Mrs. Henley (I think that is the name) to-morrow; and if what she says of you, is satisfactory, I take it for granted you and I shall be better acquainted."

Adeliza took her leave, and soon reached home. Mrs. Henley had been both surprised and uneasy at her absence; but this was converted into admiration and the most heartfelt gratitude, when she learned the cause of it. Mrs. Henley still warmly urged her to remain with them, saying no endeavour on their part should be wanting, to render her situation as pleasant as circumstances would admit.

All this Adeliza felt assured of, but said her heart was set upon this plan, and she earnestly hoped that, upon farther enquiry, she should be found qualified for the charge.

charge. Not that she was by any means prepossessed in favour of Mrs. Grimalkin ; on the contrary, there was a something in the countenance of that lady, though she *talked* well, that was forbidding and repulsive in the extreme.

On the morning of the following day, a thundering rap announced the approach of the expected visitor. Adeliza left the room, that Mrs. Henley might be at perfect liberty to answer the questions put to her. Mrs. Grimalkin told Mrs. Henley, that she hoped and trusted she would answer what she should ask of her without reserve, as she must be sensible, from her own feelings as a mother, of what infinite importance it was to have a person, who was to act as governess, perfectly correct in heart, conduct, and manners. This was readily assented to by Mrs. Henley, who

spoke in the highest possible style of Adaliza's worth and accomplishments.

"The young lady I wish your friend to have the charge of," continued Mrs. Grimalkin, "is not my own child, but a niece; she is indeed, partiality aside, a perfect creature. I have hitherto taken the sole care of her upon myself; she is almost mistress of music, French, and Italian; she draws and dances well, but my plan of education is not complete—I would have her extremely good and *charitable*, as well as highly accomplished; and as animating example is better to young people in particular than cold precept, I have almost entirely devoted myself to her. Home, you know, must be made pleasant to youth, otherwise they will naturally look for amusement elsewhere. In pursuance of this plan, I do not waste
my

my time in idle company or frivolous entertainments, but assist her in making some pretty trifles, to be *disposed* of for the *benefit of the poor*; thus encouraging a spirit of philanthropy and diligence together: I hope as the reward of my labours, she will prove an ornament to society. Finding, however, that I have so many new avocations, that must unavoidably require my presence in other places, I wish (should I be fortunate enough) to meet with a person who is well qualified to take my precious charge for some little time off my hands. From what you say of Miss Pembroke, I think I may venture to make trial of her; trusting that the character you have given of her, is no more than she deserves."

"No words," replied Mrs. Henley, "can possibly do justice to the merit of Miss

L. 6.

Pembroke,

Pembroke, nor convey an adequate idea of her excellence; nor are her accomplishments less various and well adapted, than is her heart the pure residence of every female virtue."

"You speak with great warmth, Madam," said Mrs. Grimalkin; "but I shall certainly, for a short time at least, engage her. Will you take the trouble of ringing for her?"

Mrs. Henley immediately rose, and soon returned, leading in Adeliza. - After some conversation, it was settled that Adeliza should receive twenty pounds a year salary, and that she should go to Mrs. Grimalkin's on the Friday, that being Tuesday. This business finally settled, the lady took her leave.

It may here be necessary to give some account of this personage. Mrs. Grimalkin was one of those people who, by constant

regard to *eternals*, had acquired the good opinion of the world in general, but, as is too frequently the case, without in the least degree meriting it. She possessed a great deal of superficial knowledge, talked decisively on all subjects, and by her readiness in giving her opinion, which was never withheld either by timidity or modesty, obtained the credit of being, what she had not in truth the slightest pretensions to, sensible. Fearful that other people should not discover her innumerable good qualities, she was continually repeating the kind and charitable actions she daily performed, the good advice she gave, the order and economy of her household, the excellent method she had of training up young people, which she boasted was so delightfully exemplified in
the

the submissive conduct and brilliant accomplishments of her darling Letitia: in short, she made this so constant a subject of conversation, that her acquaintance, without taking the trouble of thinking about her, readily gave her the credit she so modestly demanded as her just right; but by people of discernment, the imposition so flimsily concealed, was soon detected, and to them she appeared in her true colours—in person, heart, and manners equally and entirely indebted for their attractive gloss to the most consummate hypocrisy.

Such was Mrs. Grimalkin, and added to all this, she was vain of her person, envious, ill-natured, and, maugre her pretensions to sympathy for *delicate distress*, had a most unfeeling heart. Behold then the
proud

proud dame to whom, for the present, Adeliza's unkind stars had consigned her! —Well for her she did not know the real disposition and character of the person she was now destined to live with.

When their fellow-lodger, the old gentleman, was made acquainted with the changes which were to take place, he expressed the strongest regret at the idea of losing such pleasing society, and more particularly that of Adeliza. He warmly urged her to apply to him without hesitation for advice or assistance whenever she stood in need of either. The first he would always give to the best of his abilities, and for the latter, she should never want. Adeliza thanked him with warmth for his kind offers, promising to see him as frequently as she could gain permission.

“ I trust,

CASTLE OF SANTA FE.

ist, my amiable young friend,
old gentleman, "that you will
offended at the liberty I am now
take. I am no stranger to the
y of your heart, that has stripped
all your ready cash. The person
going to live with, *I once well*
did not like her, and I am sure
ld not willingly submit to be
pendant on her; accept, there-
dear child, this purse—the con-
small, but when exhausted, you
o will readily and with pleasure

this unexpected and liberal kindness. Upon examination, she found the purse contained fifteen guineas.

“ Oh !” thought she, “ who should ever presume to despair, when from such very unexpected sources, Providence is pleased to send relief !”

CHAP. XIV.

Fortune her gifts may variously dispose,
And *these* be happy call'd—unhappy *those*;
But Heav'n's just balance equal will appear
While *those* are plac'd in hope, and *these*
Not present good or ill, the joy or curse,
But future views of better or of worse.

ADELIZA took an affectionate
her friends, with whom she particularly to correspond, and acquainted with all that occurred to her.

Grimalkin, with Miss Berne, her niece, were both from home. The upper servant was the only one to receive her. She had her trunks taken in, and was shewn up to the room which she was to occupy. Here she was equally surprised and hurt to find there were two beds, one of which she was informed by the loquacious maid was her's, as the house was not large, and her mistress had said she was certain that the young person who was coming, could not have any objection to this arrangement.

Adeliza did not chuse to talk on this subject to the servant, but resolved, on no account whatever, to submit to this humiliation, let the consequences be what they would. As she did not shew any inclination to enter into conversation with the servant, she was soon left to her own reflections,

reflections, and most uncomfortable they were.

It was ten o'clock before a thundering rap announced the return of the family, and presently afterwards Adeliza was summoned down stairs. She was welcomed with great civility by Mrs. Grimalkin and her husband, while little Miss stood gravely examining her.

"Allow me," said Mrs. Grimalkin, "to introduce my niece, Miss Berne, to you. I trust you will be good friends, and that you, Letitia, will pay the strictest attention to every instruction given you, and will be a very good girl—will you not, my love?—You may now retire. Wish Miss Pembroke good night, and remember that you must be at your music by six o'clock in the morning.—(Early enough, thought Adeliza.)—If you, too, incline to go to rest,

rest, Miss Pembroke, you are at perfect liberty to do so."

"I thank you, Madam," replied Adeliza, "but may I venture to hope that I have been misinformed about my having a companion in my room at night?"

"Why not?" replied Mrs. Grimalkin, fixing her large disagreeable eyes on her face: "I cannot see what objection you can have to my *maid's* sleeping in your room, when you have a bed entirely to yourself. I assure you she is a very worthy creature, as indeed are all my household—the best people in the world."

Adeliza replied that she did not presume to call in question the worth of her servants, but merely to say that she was not accustomed to have another person's servant at night in the room with her. After
some

some demurring, she was told in a haughty manner, that in this whim, ridiculous as it was, she should be humoured. With this assurance Adeliza retired, by no means pleased with such a beginning.

After she had been in bed some time, her room-door was opened, and the woman whom she had seen at first, came in muttering. She dragged the clothes off the other bed, and banged the door after her. This sort of disturbance she did not at all understand; and, to prevent a repetition of the like unpleasant *entrée*, she got up, and fastened the door.

Before six in the morning she was dressed, and immediately descended into the room she had been in the preceding evening. Here she met her pupil, whom she found far from dull, and by no means untractable,

untractable, though so exceedingly ill managed. Two heavy hours were spent at the piano-forte. Adeliza could not help remarking that whenever she gave her new pupil any directions, the whole time she talked to her, the child continued to rattle the keys of the instrument with her fingers. Adeliza asked her why she did it, and little Miss, holding down her head, and blushing, answered—

“ I had forgotten.”

“ Forgot what ?” asked Adeliza.

“ Why;” replied she, hesitating to confess the truth, “ why, Miss Pembroke, whenever the servants speak to me, I always do so, that my aunt, who listens to every sound, and hears every thing, may not think me idle ; then I should be lectured the whole morning afterwards, for
the

the edification of every visitor, as well as myself."

Adeliza strongly represented to Miss Berne the meanness, as well as wickedness and duplicity of such conduct, hoping she should never find her guilty of any thing like it again.

Adeliza breakfasted with the family, and was treated with particular civility by Mr. Grimalkin, till his amiable rib called him to order, by desiring he would walk up stairs to his library, as they did not wish to have their studies interrupted by the presence of gentlemen. Mrs. Grimalkin gave Adeliza a list in writing of all she was to do throughout each day. By this arrangement, not one half hour was left unoccupied ; but this was no punishment to her, who preferred, at all times, employment

employment to idleness, though less would now have satisfied her. French, music, Italian, geography, mathematics, and drawing, succeeded each other in such rapid succession, that Adeliza, who was mistress of all, found even herself bewildered in this labyrinth of learning. She could not, therefore, in the least wonder that her pupil had attained but a very superficial knowledge of these numerous branches of modern education. She likewise discovered what was far from being pleasant, that she possessed a no small share of low cunning, and that she frequently spoke untruths. This was plainly caused by her aunt's severity; but this severity, so far from being attended with any good effects, was productive of the most unpleasant consequences; the lectures

Mrs. Grimalkin so liberally bestowed on her, were wholly unheeded, and the subjects of derision the moment her back was turned.

Not to be satisfied with Adeliza, was impossible—this the lady confessed; but nothing could be more unsuitable to the elegant girl than her present situation; her pupil made but trifling progress, the aunt imperious and uncertain, and she kept constantly fagging, even after tea-time working for *charity*, the merit of which was taken wholly to herself by Mrs. Grimalkin.

This daily ostentatious mockery of doing good was the first thing that fixed her disgust and contempt of the character of that lady. With indignation Adeliza saw the labours of the ingenious and industrious
English

English lavished upon the idle and frippery part of the French nation. The former brought their work home, and required but a small sum as the reward of it, but even this they often expected in vain; whilst a tawdry Frenchwoman, with a few embroidered cuffs, and no small share of fine speeches, obtained (from the purse intended for, and expressly filled by the generous, to be dedicated to charitable purposes), a liberal, nay, a lavish return, for what was made no other use of, than as presents to the younger part of Mrs. Grimalkin's own acquaintance.

Day after day was spent by Adeliza in a dull repetition of lessons unattended to, and still duller accounts of the tender and delicate sensibility of the lady of the house, who having got the care of her

niece off her hands, began to favour her friends with a little more of her company. She went out to parties, played high, and dressed in the extreme of immodest fashion. This conduct not a little startled Adeliza, as she saw Mrs. Grimalkin act in direct opposition to what she so loudly professed. So far from thinking it allowable that young people should partake of any of the innocent amusements of life, she was perpetually haranguing on the propriety of their being constantly employed at home, while she inveighed against the present depravity of the times. This Adeliza seeing and hearing, determined, as soon as she could frame a sufficient excuse, to leave the family.

She had now been a month in this situation, each day producing fresh matter of vexation,

vexation, when standing one day by the window with Mrs. Grimalkin, who was endeavouring to find some defect in a drawing of her doing, her eye was caught by the figure of Sir Armine Temple. He saw her, and bowed, which was graciously returned by Mrs. Grimalkin.

“Oh!” exclaimed she, (without in the least being sensible that Adeliza was a party concerned), “that is the person of all others I wished to see.”

She pulled the bell with violence, and sent the servant after him. Adeliza, wishing if possible to avoid this rencounter, would have left the room, but was prevented by Mrs. Grimalkin. The servant returned without success, for the gentleman was not to be overtaken.

“What shall I do!” vexatiously exclaimed Mrs. Grimalkin; “was ever any

thing so provoking, so very unlucky !—He would have been such an addition, to my musical party ; a man of such approved taste as is Sir Armine Temple, would have stamped a value and fashion on our selection of friends which nothing else could. —If he is in town, I will have him !”

Adeliza could not resist the inclination she felt to smile at these extravagant expressions. This the lady quickly observed, and rather provoked at having said so much, thought it necessary to give some reason for what had inadvertently passed her lips. She said the gentleman she had spoken of, was of one of the first families in the kingdom ; had travelled all over the habitable globe ; was accomplished beyond anything human ; an admirable *connoisseur* in music ; was the first sought after, and courted by all elegant societies ; and, to

sum

sum up all, was her dear approved, and intimate friend. To all this Adeliza only bowed assent, and soon after left the room, to attend to her pupil, whom she found playing at ball with the footboy.

The morning after this, Mrs. Grimalkin appeared in the best humour imaginable. Adeliza was her *dear Miss Pembroke*, and she wished to consult her about some ornaments to set off the rooms with, for the musical party she had before mentioned, as Sir Armine Temple had promised her the honour of his company.

For two days every appearance of study was laid aside, and Adeliza's whole time occupied in making preparations for this splendid concert. Mrs. Grimalkin could find fault with what did not exactly suit her taste, but she had neither genius nor

M 4

capacity

capacity to alter it herself ; by this means, therefore, the whole decorations for three rooms, and which were extremely elegant, were executed by Adeliza's single hand. When finished, they were viewed even by the fastidious Mrs. Grimalkin with rapture.

The momentous evening at length arrived, when, to Adeliza's infinite surprise, she was told by the lady, that, as a matter of great indulgence, when she had seen every thing in proper order, she might, if she chose, go and make the visit she had before asked permission to do, but which was not then convenient. This offer Adeliza, without hesitation, accepted, as by that means she should avoid the possibility of seeing Sir Armine Temple in her present humiliating situation.

Having superintended every preparation,
she

she sent for a coach, and in a short time reached her former place of abode. The joy of the old gentleman was extreme at seeing her. He had begun to fear, he said, that he should never have that pleasure again.

Adeliza gave him an account of all that had passed during this interval, and he easily perceived that it was not owing to her indifference that they had not met again sooner. After having sat chatting with him for two hours, and assisted in eating some fine fruit she had brought him, she took her leave, promising to see him again as soon as she possibly could.

On reaching home, she rapped gently at the door, and hastening softly up stairs, just as she set her foot upon the upper

M 5

step

step by the drawing-room, the door opened, and Sir Armine Temple appeared.

“Where,” said he, “in the name of Heaven, my charming Miss Pembroke, have you hid yourself to-night?—I have been waiting with the utmost impatience these two hours in momentary expectation, every time the door opened, of seeing you enter; but come, permit me the honour of introducing one of Nature’s most perfect, most beautiful works.”

One of Sir Armine’s hands was already laid upon the handle of the lock—Adeliza, terrified, entreated he would allow her to pass, before he opened the door.

“Oh!” exclaimed she, “how little do you, Sir Armine, know the humble situation I hold in this family, if for a moment moment you can suppose I am esteemed proper

proper company for those now assembled here!"

By Heavens!" returned Sir Armine with vehemence, "nothing but the most infernal envy could have induced that crooked piece of patched-up sin, Mrs. Grimalkin, to keep you thus concealed. Can you suppose for an instant that any thing less than the delightful idea of seeing you, could have drawn me in to make one of this pedantic party?—Nothing else, on my soul! And now I must insist upon it that you allow me the honour of handing you in. Reflect it is a duty, Miss Pembroke, you owe your gallant brother, not to suffer yourself to be trampled upon, or treated as a menial servant!"

Before Adeline had time to reply to this, Sir Armine had thrown open the drawing-

room door; and, as he had taken her hand, she had no alternative but to walk forward, or subject herself to the ill-natured animadversions of the company, together with the insulting sneers of Mrs. Grimalkin.

This lady had been anxiously watching the door, in hopes of seeing Sir Armine re-enter; but what words could describe her sensations, when with astonishment and rage she saw Adeliza with him!—She turned death-sick at the unwelcome, the mortifying sight; and had she possessed the power, as she amply did the inclination, would have struck her not only with instant death, but with annihilation. Unfortunately for her, she could do neither, and therefore was obliged to submit to the torture inflicted by envy and disappointment.

Adeliza

Adeliza advanced, led by Sir Armine Temple, modesty dying her cheeks, but at the same time with an air of conscious innocence and firm dignity. Every eye was directed towards her. She was dressed in plain black muslin, with a small straw hat on.

"I expect," said Sir Armine gaily, "to receive the united thanks of this company for the delightful addition I have procured to the party. This young lady would have escaped me, but that I was resolved she should not do."

Mrs. Grimalkin attempted to smile, but it was evidently an unsuccessful attempt. She sat violently fanning herself; at last she said, in a convulsed sort of tone—

"Had Miss Pembroke been ingenuous enough to acknowledge her acquaintance with

with you, Sir Armaine, I should have asked her, however against my established rules, to join the party to-night."

This unpleasant scene was put an end to, by Sir Armine entreating Adeliza to sit down to the instrument, pointing out to her a favourite and very difficult piece of music. This request she complied with, and performed it in so masterly a style both of taste and execution, as to call forth the highest encomiums from all present. As she was rising from her seat, overpowered by the praise lavished upon her, she was addressed by a voice sweet as harmony, and soft as the gentle zephyr, entreating her, if not encroaching too much on her readiness to oblige, to be favoured with a song. Adeliza raised her eyes to see who had made the request, and, to her infinite

infinite surprise, recognised the lady for whom she had done the embroidery. Ten thousand varied emotions fluttered in her agitated breast. She laid her hand on her heart, and heaved a deep sigh, as if to relieve herself from the heavy pressure there. Sir Armine, who had withdrawn, advanced.

"I fear," said he, anxiously, "I have foolishly hurried your tender spirits; you look heated. Will you give me leave, Miss Pembroke, to take off your hat?"

"Do part with it," said the lady who had before addressed her.

"You are, Madam," said Adeliza, as she raised her fine eyes suffused with tears of gratitude, "most kindly considerate."

"Fear not," said Sir Armine, gaily smiling, "to do so, Miss Pembroke, for I declare

declare your *wig* is in excellent order, and looks more *natural* than any thing *false* I ever saw."

Adeliza took off her hat, and modestly gave it Sir Armine. Her beautiful hair had been carelessly fastened up with a comb; part of it now fell down below her waist, and gracefully waved in a profusion of luxuriant ringlets, shading in part one side of her truly beautiful face. As requested, she sang. The air was melodious, and peculiarly adapted to her voice. She performed with exquisite taste. Another and another air succeeded; and Adeliza arose from her seat, oppressed by the repetition of applauses so sincerely bestowed.

The lady who had at first noticed her, now made room for her to sit next to her.

Sir



Sir Armine spoke aside to her; then turning to Adeliza, said—

“Allow me, my dear Miss Pembroke, to introduce you to the Marchioness Almanza.”

This evening, so unpleasant in the commencement, and which seemed to threaten every thing that was uncomfortable, proved, on the contrary, truly delightful to our heroine, who in the enjoyment of the conversation of this truly elegant woman, forgot all disagreeables. She felt herself happy, and in her proper sphere; while Mrs. Grimalkin, who had promised herself the most undisturbed and exquisite gratification, met in its stead the most mortifying disappointment.

Sir Armine Temple, who possessed, in an eminent degree, the power of genteelly tormenting, amused himself, during the remainder

remainder of the evening, by throwing out the most sarcastic hints at her, till Adeliza begged he would let the subject die away.

The Marchioness introduced her to her husband, a very elegant young man, and at the same time gave her a pressing invitation to visit her. It was late before the party broke up. Adeliza had taken an opportunity of entreating Sir Armine would have the goodness to acquaint the Marchioness in what situation she lived in the family of Mrs. Grimalkin.

This he readily promised to do ; and also told her that since last he had the pleasure of seeing her at Raby Castle, he had been thrown from his horse, and fractured his arm ; that he had been confined a considerable time, and, on his recovery, the first thing he did, was to obtain her address

from

from Lady Catherine Surrey, who spoke of her in the most affectionate style; that he went to the house to which he was directed, but found the family had left it, nor could he obtain any information respecting where they were removed to; he had therefore no clew to guide him in his search of her. Kind chance at length directed his eyes to the window where she stood. He well knew, he said, the woman she was with, and therefore did not then call; but meeting Mrs. Grimalkin in the evening, he gained all the information he wanted, without in the least exciting her suspicions; and for the express purpose of seeing Miss Pembroke, he had accepted that evening's invitation.*

The party being now entirely broken up, Sir Armine Temple took his leave;
and

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